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ARABS TURNING AWAY FROM U.S. FOR MILITARY AIRCRAFT

Beirut AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 19 May 78 pp 25, 26

[Article by Nash'at al-Taghlibi]

[Text] "Whatever decision comes of the debate over the transaction for the sale of U.S. aircraft to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Israel, there is no doubt that the Senate has scorned to refrain from extinguishing the last remaining ray of Arab hope in the United States of America."

This was the opinion I heard from an official source in Cairo about 2 weeks ago. Official Egypt had been following the proposal of the issue of the sale of military aircraft to Egypt and the Saudi Arabian Kingdom with silent bitterness which crowned the bitterness that it felt because of the incapacity of the U.S.--even officially--to stand up before Israeli firmness.

At the same time when the three Cairo newspapers were seizing on the statements which supported the transaction, and publishing them in prominent places, the quarters concerned were assiduously studying the statements opposed to it in a search for the political dimensions which would result from these statements in the future.

Popular circles showed some interest in the U.S. situation, but show some lack of concern today. In this respect, they are like someone who has been hurt by a disappointment in the hopes which he attached to an administration that appeared on that day, or at that moment, to be able to put Israel in its place and capable of rights to all to whom they were due.

The fact is that the position of the U.S. Senate with regard to the aircraft transaction was like the straw that broke the camel's back. Although, according to a responsible official in the Egyptian ministry of foreign affairs, President Carter found "flat justification" to gain the support of the Senate and the House of Representatives for the transaction, and said last February that he proposed selling some F-5 fighter aircraft to Egypt because the Libyan Republic, and perhaps Ethiopia too, were going to destroy Egypt;

Although U.S. Secretary of Defense Harold Brown followed his President's lead and said early this month that the Saudi Arabian Kingdom needed some F-15 intercept aircraft to protect itself from Iraq, South Yemen, and perhaps Ethiopia, and that it would turn to France if it did not get them;

Although President Carter spoke more than once during the past 3 months of the "military determination of the U.S. for the security and safety of Israel";

And although the Washington government sent a flight of twelve F-5 aircraft to Kenya early last April without outcry or objection from Israel, despite the fact that Kenya champions Ethiopia, which "will presumably attack Egypt;"

Nevertheless, in spite of all this, the U.S. experienced the greatest humiliation in its political history when the Senate exposed itself before the whole world during the past few weeks, for it showed itself to be more in support of Israel than in support of the nation which it represents, and it showed some of its members to represent Israel more than their own country, to the point that one of the U.S. newspapers could not bear it, especially after the statements that Israeli Prime Minister Moshe Dayan made during his visit to the U.S. late last month, and a journalist took advantage of a press conference to ask Carter, "Is it fitting for the minister of foreign affairs of a foreign country to interfere in the legislative affairs of the government of the United States of America?" Then the President of the United States was to be seen ignoring this question and addressing his answer to another part of the question pertaining to the debates which are in progress concerning the aircraft transaction.

Truly, the U.S. President ignored his own justification because Moshe Dayan is virtually not considered a "foreign minister of foreign affairs!" Thus, the minister of foreign affairs of the country that has the capability to defy the executive authority of another country through its two legislative chambers and through numerous sensitive centers can permit himself to manage the foreign policy of another country, even though that country is "the strongest nation in the world!"

So, when President Carter wanted to show his muscles openly, [saying] that he considered the transaction for the sale of aircraft to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Israel an indivisible whole, to be accepted or rejected in its entirety, adding, "If Congress rejects a part of the transaction and agrees to the rest of it, I am resolved to cancel the whole transaction"--

And when the U.S. Secretary of Defense declared, on 23 February, that the U.S. would never sell fighters to Israel if Congress refused to sell fighter aircraft to Egypt and Saudi Arabia--

On that very day, the Zionist centers of influence went into action and raised an outcry through the members of Congress, and behold! Frank Church who is considered one of the most influential members of Congress, surprised the U.S. press at the end of last April with a statement in which he announced that he had received a letter from U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance affirming that President Carter had gone back on his commitment to treat the aircraft transaction as a single and indivisible whole.

Vance showed much submissiveness in his letter to Church, saying, "The administration (that is to say, the government) is not trying to impose conditions on the Congress in dealing with the transaction."

At the very same time, the leaders of Congress were making statements one after another in waves like a rushing torrent, and all of them dealt with one subject and with one idea: that "Israel's needs must receive priority, and the fulfillment of these needs must be bound up with that of weapons offered to Egypt and Saudi Arabia."

Still more:

Early this month, TIME magazine published a statement of U.S. Secretary of Defense Harold Brown, in which he tried to make light of the importance of the F-15 aircraft, describing them as intercept aircraft equipped with air to air rockets. He said, "The aircraft that will be sent to Saudi Arabia are not equipped with air-to-ground rockets. This means that Israel's military targets will never be exposed to danger, and that the aircraft transaction with Egypt and Saudi Arabia will never alter the balance of forces in the area."

Nevertheless, some of the members of Congress requested the elimination of the extra fuel tanks from the aircraft destined for Saudi Arabia so as to limit their range and thus keep them from being able to reach the Israeli bases and then get back to their own.

The strangest thing about this is that U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance emphasized, in his statements before Congress, that the Saudi Arabian Kingdom would offer all the necessary guarantees pertaining to the use of the F-15 aircraft so that they would never be used against Israel.

It fell to Democratic Senator John Sparkman to mention the factor of bargaining over Israeli mobility. Therefore, he said that "the settlement between the administration and Congress may include giving Israel 15 or 20 more F-15 aircraft in addition to the 15 of this model that the transaction provided for."

At the same time, Israel was broadcasting on another frequency. Former Israeli chief of staff Mordekhay Gur attacked the Carter administration, saying that Israel would rather not get fighter aircraft than do business as a part of a single and indivisible transaction with Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Then he added menacingly that the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, merely by getting the aircraft, would become a military target which the Israeli forces would attack in case of the outbreak of a new armed conflict.

That is to say, at the same time that the U.S. asked for guarantees not to attack Israel, Israel declared frankly that it was the one that would launch the attack!

At the same time when Congress asked for an increase in Israel's share in the aircraft transaction (15 F-15 and 775 F-16 aircraft), Senator Frank Church announced that he had asked Saudi Arabia to offer President Carter a commitment not to buy any other military aircraft than those which the transaction specified, and not to station the aircraft which it bought at the Tabuk base near Israel (225 kilometers away from the port of Eilat).

Also, at the same time when Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin was pleading with the U.S. to call off the aircraft transaction with Saudi Arabia "because it would increase the danger to Israel," President Carter said that the aircraft destined for Saudi Arabia were designed for the defense of Saudi territory alone, and consequently would never be used to attack Israel.

But Begin, like his former chief of staff, does not even want Saudi Arabia to strengthen its (defensive) forces, and so he declares that the sale of aircraft to it would automatically turn into a confrontation state, for it would confront [Israel] in the meaning in which it interprets this term. Begin said that he had received information from a source that he could not name affirming that Saudi Arabia would place its aircraft at the disposal of another Arab enemy of Israel (that is to say, Egypt).

All of this happens even though the poll that the Associated Press and the NBC conducted late last February indicated that 63 percent of the citizens of the U.S. were opposed to supplying Israel with 90 fighter aircraft and no more than 24 percent of them supported it. At the same time, the poll indicated also that the U.S. citizens were in principle opposed to sending U.S. weapons to the Middle East; that is, they want the U.S. to be neutral in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

But can Washington really adopt a neutral stance?

James Reston commented in his column in the NEW YORK TIMES that when President Carter, during his visit to Saudi Arabia, promised to sell sophisticated aircraft to that country, he underestimated the Israeli reaction, and therefore had to be able to keep his promise to assign the lion's share of the transaction to Israel. And still this did not satisfy Israel!

Since Carter could not satisfy the Israelis, and aroused their desire to demand once more a number of aircraft which they had specified earlier at 25 F-15 and 150 F-16 aircraft, he then tried to put off submitting the transaction to Congress, anticipating the reaction that he would encounter from the supporters of Israel. This course of action aroused the anger of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, and the news of its anger leaked out to the press, bringing U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Brittany [Brian?] Atwood to say that Riyad had informed Washington officially that any further delay in deciding on the aircraft transaction would compel the Saudi Arabian Kingdom to take recourse to other sources to get sophisticated military aircraft.

What are these sources?

The Middle East News Agency attributed to Saudi diplomatic sources that statement that Saudi Arabia was not concerned about the cancellation of the U.S. aircraft transaction, because, if it should fall through, the country would turn to France for the purchase of Mirage 2000 aircraft.

On 9 May, the NEW YORK TIMES said that France wanted to go into partnership with Saudi Arabia in the production of Mirage 2000 aircraft. Then it added a provision: the party that sells the aircraft shall also train the pilots and supply the maintenance experts for the defense system, and those experts are the persons who will make the final decision on whether the aircraft will or will not be used for aggressive purposes.

On 4 May 1978, the accounting reporting office which belongs to Congress [the General Accounting Office?] published a report saying that there are aircraft which can replace the F-15, these being the Mirage F-1 and the Mirage 2000.

What confirms this tendency is that King Khalid of Saudi Arabia timed his visit to France for the end of this month: that is, when Congress has adopted its final decision on the aircraft transaction.

On this basis, Arab diplomatic sources in Paris expect that the official Saudi-French negotiations pertaining to the manufacture of the Mirage 2000 will begin, especially if the U.S. aircraft transaction is not appropriate to the defense requirements of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, the bases of friendship between the two countries, or the prevailing international principles.

For Riyad, whose purchases in U.S. conventional weapons over a period of 3 years, according to the Soviet news agency TASS, amounted to 5.78 billion dollars, cannot ignore the maneuvers of the Zionist centers of gravity in the U.S. whose purpose is to arouse a new problem similar to that of Watergate on the basis of the accusation which Robert Wul [Dole?], a member of the Senate, directed at John West, U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia, when.... [Dole?] demanded that an investigation be conducted to determine the truth about what was being said to the effect that the U.S. ambassador used his influence and position to get a contract with Saudi Arabia for a company which includes a friend of his.

The WASHINGTON POST had indicated that the U.S. ambassador in Riyad was in back of the F-15 aircraft transaction with Saudi Arabia.

Furthermore, Saudi Arabia cannot forget that, when the U.S. Secretary of the Air Force said that the proposed aircraft transaction met only a small part of the military aircraft requirement of Saudi Arabia and that, if one took into consideration its long-term need, its petroleum reserve, and its probable enemies in the area, the size of the transaction was only a drop in the ocean,

the reaction of the U.S. Department of State was to issue a statement affirming that the U.S. administration was not thinking of selling any more F-5 aircraft to Saudi Arabia, contrary to what was understood from the statement of the Secretary of the Air Force, and the Riyad government had not submitted any request to that effect.

Although 60 F-15 aircraft for Saudi Arabia and 50 F5A aircraft for Egypt stirred up all that fuss and all those protests, there was no bar to the agreement at the end of last March to the sale to Israel of sophisticated night combat equipment which facilitates seeing in the dark and which helps to spot enemy military equipment by means of the heat which that equipment emits.

Therefore, Israel is more important to the U.S. than any Arab country, including the Saudi Arabian Kingdom!

On this basis, it is possible to understand the statement that Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and chief of the Saudi National Guard, made to TIME magazine, in which he said, "Israel is now considered an arsenal of the most modern types of weapons, and it commits aggression on the nations of the area without restraint and flouts all of the international decrees and laws." Then he said, "The weapons transactions that Saudi Arabia enters into are based on careful studies of its security and defense requirements, and the American people will never consent to be led, by their sympathy with the Jews for what they endured at the hands of the Nazis, into the creation of a new Nazism in the Middle East, which oppresses and drives out the Palestinian people."

Prince 'Abdallah denounced the lavishing of aircraft and weapons on Israel, "because doing so will never serve the cause of a just peace in the Middle East." Then he said, "If our friends turn their backs on us, then we are free to choose our own way to take care of our interests and protect our rights. The market in the world is very large. We do not beg for help, but pay the price of it in whatever resources and friendship we possess."

The diplomats who read this statement became suddenly more concerned with King Khalid's official visit to France at the end of this month. Furthermore, their interest grew in keeping up with the conflict (if conflict is the correct term) that is going on between the U.S. administration and the legislative body concerning the three-way aircraft transaction and what the outcome of it will be.

For it is clear that Israel concentrates its campaign on the aircraft transaction, relying on an artificial fear which pretends that Saudi Arabia is going to turn into a confrontation state with the limited number of aircraft that it receives from the U.S. Indeed, this means that the arrival of the U.S. aircraft in the Middle East will increase Egypt's combat strength, especially since Egypt is armed from other sources! Last March, an official source in Washington confirmed an Israeli dispatch stating that Egypt had asked France for 46 Mirage F-1 fighter aircraft.

Although France denied the dispatch, Washington insisted on it, and Congress took advantage of it to throw obstacles in the way of the transaction of U.S. aircraft for Egypt and Saudi Arabia on the ground that the sales of the French Asu [presumably Dassault] Company to Egypt so far have amounted to 28 Mirage F-2 and 60 Mirage F-2 and Mirage 5 aircraft, of which 50 have been delivered.

It is important for Egypt not to ignore the fact that its air force is now entirely dependent on French aircraft. Egyptian Minister of War and War Production Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Ghani al-Jamasi announced flatly that "Mirage aircraft are the sinew of the Egyptian air forces, now and in the future." He justified the procurement of U.S. F-5A aircraft (which go back to the 1960's) as being intended only as a change-over from the Soviet MIG fighters.

The fact is that the F-5A aircraft, which Washington said that it had decided to supply to Egypt to help it face the likelihood of an Ethiopian or Libyan attack, is a fighter aircraft of limited capability. Its maximum speed is 1,700 kilometers [per hour], whereas that of the F-15 is 2,660 and that of the F-16 is 2,020 kilometers [per hour]. The F5A is equipped with two 20-millimeter guns and two air-to-air rockets of limited range, whereas the F-15 aircraft is equipped with a 20-millimeter gun with six rotating barrels and four long-range rockets, as is also the F-16 aircraft. The maximum bomb load of the F-5A is 3,175 kilograms, and its combat range is 278 kilometers, or, with extra fuel, 686 kilometers, whereas the F-15 has a bomb load of 6,804 kilograms and a combat range of 1,930 kilometers, or, with extra fuel, 5,955 kilometers, and the F-16 has a maximum load of 4,990 kilograms and a combat range of 2,100 kilometers.

These data show that the danger of using the F-5A in a confrontation with Israel would be much greater than would be the danger in its not existing at all. Therefore, Egypt has turned to France to fulfill its requirement in sophisticated aircraft, on the premise that the U.S. can not do anything in this field, even though Israel is crammed with aircraft and with the most modern weaponry.

Will the Saudi Arabian Kingdom follow Egypt's example?

The U.S. press, which shows particular concern with the debates which are in progress concerning the transaction for aircraft for Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Israel, has actually begun to anticipate Riyad's investment in the production of the Mirage 2000 aircraft and every French military aircraft that will be developed from now on, because this investment in production will fulfill two basic desiderata: (1) military security, and (2) worthwhile employment for the future.

In any case, diplomatic observers in Washington are agreed that President Carter's administration has exerted its utmost effort on the aircraft transaction issue, so that, contrary to what was expected, this issue will be considered an end and not a beginning.

These observers add: "A long time will go by before the U.S. administration frees itself from the grasp of Zionist pressure, and nobody believes that the Arabs are prepared to wait out that time in vain."

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

HEAD OF ARAB MONETARY FUND INTERVIEWED

Rabat AL-ANBA' in Arabic 20 Apr 78 p 6

[Interview with Hashim Jawad, head of the AMF: "A Conversation With Hashim Jawad, Head of the AMF; After a Year the Amf Begins Its Scientific Activity"]

[Text] The establishment of an Arab union for payments and a free monetary zone among the member nations is being contemplated.

The biggest problems of the fund are providing the required experts and qualified personnel, of which there are few in the Arab world.

The fund has established its loan policy. The meeting of the executive directors on 25 and 26 April in Abu Dhabi will investigate the financial system and the principles of operation.

The reliance of objective relations in the subject of offering loans to the Arab nations which are members of the fund. [sic]

The Arab Monetary Fund, a great name for a young creation, is celebrating its second anniversary on 25 and 26 April of this year, when the fund's board of trustees will hold its second meeting in Abu Dhabi.

The fund's charter was signed during the 22nd session of the Arab Economic Council in Rabat in this same month in 1976. On 18 April 1977 the fund's board of trustees held its first meeting in Abu Dhabi which was chosen as the fund's permanent headquarters.

That first meeting firmly fixed the fund's principal features. At it Dr Jawad Hashim, former Iraqi minister of planning and economic advisor to the Revolutionary Command Council, was chosen to head the fund.

ORIENT PRESS met with Dr Jawad to review with him the little things and the big things which have so far been completed on the level of establishing the fund in preparation for the performance of its duties as determined by its charter. The conversation was as follows:

[Question] What are the main steps that have been taken by the AMF towards achieving its goals?

[Answer] The AMF began to pursue its activities almost a year ago, faced with a number of tasks which it had to complete before tackling the job of realizing its goals. Among these goals are the formation of an administrative and technical organization which will be qualified to undertake the work of the fund, which, as everyone knows, will take time. In particular, the fund needs many rare Arabs with expertise and skill, who have experience in financial and monetary work in the milieu of the Arab nations.

Tackling Imbalance In the Balance of Payments

In spite of the organizational work which the fund undertook in the early period after its founding, its technical personnel began to consider the systems and the foundations for the practical implementation of the fund's goals inasmuch as it is currently preparing general policies for tackling the balance of payments imbalances of the member nations. In the forefront is the granting of loans and the offering of technical assistance to the member nations.

The fund has begun to make contacts with some of the local specialized Arab organizations and institutions to establish the groundwork on which to build cooperation with these organizations, particularly the Arab League and the Council of Arab Economic Unity in which the idea of establishing the fund originated. Contacts are also being made with the IMF for guidance in some of the procedures which it will apply in its work.

The Free Monetary Zone

In connection with settling the current payments among the member nations, the fund will shortly begin to prepare the model system which will lead to settlement of the current payments among the member nations, which will strengthen the commercial exchange traffic among them, and which will lead to firmly established foundations of Arab monetary cooperation in accordance with its goals. Among the things which we are currently contemplating are the establishment of an Arab union for payments, and the establishment of a free monetary zone among the member nations, because the establishment of such a zone will lead to facilitating the realization of many of the goals included in the fund's charter.

[Question] Do you have any comments on the headquarters agreement between the fund and the UAE? Has this agreement given diplomatic status to the employees of the fund?

[Answer] The headquarters agreement signed between the fund and the UAE will undoubtedly assure strong cooperation with the UAE, inasmuch as it provides for the government of the UAE to give every facilitation by which

it can carry out its mandatory powers and achieve its goals, in addition to granting it complete freedom which is indispensable for carrying out the fund's work, and exempting it from all direct taxes and any other taxes or fees in effect in the UAE.

The agreement has also given the employees of the fund immunities and privileges which will enable them to carry out their work, like those enjoyed by diplomatic personnel in embassies and international and local organizations.

Procuring Experts

[Question] Are you confronted with obstacles--because of the location of the fund's headquarters in Abu Dhabi--on the level of the fund's personnel or on the level of cooperation with government and private organizations?

[Answer] The officials in the headquarters country desire to provide every possible facilitation to strengthen the position of the fund and to overcome the difficulties which impede its work. But that does not mean that there are no difficulties, particularly during the period of its establishment--and the fund is still in its first stages with regard to the formation of its personnel. Procuring the experts and qualified specialists in the monetary sphere is not an easy matter, particularly since most of the Arab countries face a shortage of these specialists which makes it difficult for us to meet our requirements of them. In addition to that are the high prices of goods and services in the headquarters country which is reflected in an unusual manner on the funds expenditures.

Loan Policy

[Question] What problems did the board of executive directors investigate at its recent meetings of last January and February?

[Answer] At its recent fifth and sixth meetings, the board of directors discussed a chief matter which forms a cornerstone of the fund's activities, namely the loan policy and its conditions and limitations. The board continued the investigation of this subject as its meeting of 6 March, and it completed the scientific concepts of that policy. It has so far been possible to set down the general principles and groundwork which the AMF will turn to in the exercise of its mandatory powers and in defining the features of its loan policy, and which included a definition of the kinds of loans and facilitations to be offered by the fund in accordance with its charter, and also the issuing of surety bonds for the benefit of the member nations, and using its good offices to issue loans to the Arab and international financial markets to the advantage of the member nations.

The Computational Arab Dinar

The loan policy will also include domestic conditions for loans so that most of the nations may derive benefit from the fund's facilitations on a

basis of justice and equality of opportunity. The policy includes a clear definition of the currency with which the fund's activities will be carried out. It is the computational Arab dinar which will be equivalent to three special units of the right of withdrawal in accordance with the fund's charter.

The loan policy will include the upper limits of the sums which can be lent, the conditions of every kind of loan, and the details of withdrawal against it and then its repayment.

Dr Jawad indicated that the fund will offer four kinds of loans to finance the entire deficit in the balance of payments of the member nations in accordance with the country's monetary condition, and in accordance with its share in the fund's capital.

Objective Relations

[Question] What were the goals of the trip you made to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and several other Arab nations?

[Answer] One of the goals of this trip was to become acquainted with the points of view of the member nations with regard to the fund's activities and programs, and to make preparations for the meetings of the board of trustees which will be held on 25 and 26 April. The fund's point of view was in agreement with that of all the Arab nations with regard to the necessity of relying on objective relations in the subject of offering loans to the member Arab nations.

Questions of Performance

[Question] What matters will be discussed by the board of trustees at its next meeting in Abu Dhabi on 25 and 26 April of this year?

[Answer] The meeting of the board of trustees of the AMF is considered one of the important economic conferences on the level of the Arab economy, and it is one of the largest conferences to be held in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the UAE. This conference will be attended by approximately 44 ministers of finance and economy and directors of central banks in the Arab nations.

The conference will discuss the following topics:

1. Operating principles of the board of trustees.
2. Operating principles of the board of executive directors.
3. The financial system.
4. The annual report concerning the fund's activities.
5. The comptroller's report.
6. Other matters.

On the day the charter of the AMF was signed in April 1976, during the 22nd session of the Arab Economic Council in Rabat, Mahmud Riyad, secretary general of the Arab League, congratulated the Arab ministers of finance and economy for signing it. He announced that the fund would be one of the most important factors of Arab economic integration, because development in the Arab countries requires coordination in the Arab monetary sphere, and because successful cooperation in the fields of agriculture, industry, trade and finance is essentially based on cooperation in the monetary aspect.

The establishment of the AMF crowned more than 20 years of work in encouraging cooperation in the monetary sphere. Perhaps petroleum developments in the past 5 years and increased awareness of the requirements of Arab integration have played a decisive role in arriving at this national financial economic foundation. Will it succeed?

Dr Hashim Jawad is neither an optimist nor a pessimist; he is working earnestly to make the fund succeed. The important thing is the results.

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ARAB VIEWS ON SOUTHERN LEBANON EXAMINED

Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Apr 78 p 5

[Article by Ahmad Baha'-al-Din: "There Is in Lebanon an International War That Does Not Wait for Differences Among Arab Leaders"]

[Text] A man cannot know for certain what the situation in southern Lebanon, in the other parts of Lebanon or around Lebanon will be by the time these lines reach the readers.

All signs indicate that the situation there abounds with the apparent and latent elements of explosion. Nobody knows whether the second phase of Lebanon's story is at its beginning or its end.

But what is certain and what we must reiterate continually is that Lebanon should be given by the Arabs, all the Arabs, first priority because if we let the likely catastrophe take its course there and if we approach it in the conventional manner, what may happen or appear there might be more fearful and more violent than what happened as a result of the loss of Palestine. Here is Israel which has actually put its foot in Lebanon and which has begun to procrastinate with the usual sneaky manner for which Israel is well known, as I mentioned in the previous article.

In reply to numerous questions and comments, I am eager to record here that I do not underestimate by a hair's width the responsibility of the local leaderships in Lebanon, of the schools of thought in Lebanon and of the armed militias in Lebanon that are considered the men of Arab and non-Arab countries.

There is no place for underestimating the responsibility of Lebanon's leaders for what they have reached there. Lebanon's leaders, commanders, merchants and thinkers have generally chosen to make Lebanon a successful commercial enterprise and not a homeland and thus all the seeds of civil war were present in it.

However, we should not forget that Lebanon is affected by the Middle East situation even though it has imagined in this respect also that it will be the area's bank which will absorb the money of anxiety without the anxiety itself. But Lebanon's calculations have been erroneous.

But is Lebanon the only sick part in our Arab world? Aren't other areas suffering from other ailments? If a part of the Arab body gets sick, should we leave it to be torn apart or amputated without trying to save it?

We, the common Arab people, are really baffled.

We have said this, said again and said to the degree where words have become more like decor or background music and it is alright for this music to continue as long as nobody pays attention to it.

Doesn't every alert Arab, even one who is far from Lebanon, feel that Lebanon's catastrophe may develop into something more dangerous than Palestine's catastrophe?

In a recent interview with the Lebanese AL-HAWADITH, I said: "Lebanon's tragedy is worse for the Arabs than Palestine's catastrophe. In Palestine's catastrophes, the Arabs were retreating in the face of forces from outside -- forces stronger than them and more advanced than they were. They were moaning under the yoke of an international injustice without the ability to repel this injustice. But Lebanon's catastrophe has been of the making of the Arabs primarily. Of course there have been strong and intentionally implanted foreign fingers. But this does not negate the fact that all the instruments used have been Arab instruments and, therefore, our responsibility here is worse."

Moreover, there is in Palestine only one catastrophe, namely a foreign occupation.

But in Lebanon, there are three catastrophes: a foreign occupation, domestic Lebanese division and inter-Arab fighting.

Frankly, we the common Arab people are asking: what are we waiting for and why are we procrastinating when matters in Lebanon are deteriorating quickly?

Are we waiting for a summit conference for the Arab kings and presidents?

And why?

In principle, we the common Arab people can no longer understand how the nation's destinies can be attached to the anger of a ruler, the resentment of a president, the personal disagreement between one king and another and to an objection by this man against that man.

We the Arab common people can no longer understand how the blood can be shed, the land lost and the time wasted while we try to reconcile the Arab leaders.

This is an insult to all the Arabs, even as just common people and not as citizens.

Moreover, if there are real intentions to draw up plans for quick movement, to agree on rescue operations and to adopt decisive positions, then there are for this end a thousand and one ways in the commonly acknowledged means of contact between states -- means that can do without the end for a summit meeting or a summit conference if there are obstacles in the face of such a meeting or conference.

What are the ministers of foreign affairs, ambassadors, permanent delegates and other officials for if summit conferences have to be held, even when holding summit meetings is impossible?

We have said, demanded and proposed on the issue of Lebanon in particular, because it is a hot and new issue with a special character, that this issue be isolated completely from the other spheres in which the Arab states disagree and that it be dealt with quickly and in a special manner on which agreement should be reached immediately and openly. The Egyptian minister of foreign affairs did well when he made a statement almost to this effect and when he urged the others to do so. We have had enough of the difference between what is said publicly and what happens behind the scenes.

So what are we waiting for?

Does any Arab think that he is far from the sparks flying from Lebanon?

Do the advocates of neutrality in Egypt think that they are far from the sparks and that the rise of an expansionist Israeli empire in the eastern corner of the Mediterranean is of no concern to Egypt?

Do the advocates of "rejection" who are nowadays far from Israel geographically think that the success of Israel's plans and Israel's material and moral control over the areas surrounding it will not shortly put them in the position of frontline states?

Do the oil countries think that Israel's eyes covet the surrounding deserts and not the treasures behind these deserts?

Ponder some of what is happening these days as an example. Consider how Israelis making protests to the United States and how it is creating a crisis against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Why? Because the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia wants to build a defensive missile base in Tabuk! A country building a defense base within its boundaries has become a provocation against Israel because the skies must be free for Israel.

Read the statement Weizman made only 2 weeks ago and in which he said that Israel has built its air forces on the basis of being able to strike any

target in any place, regardless of how far. This is why Israel is now purchasing the aircraft of 1985.

Remember that Israel wanted to remind of its presence even in the war of the Horn of Africa and so it sent its air force squadrons to fly over Bab el Mandeb and South Yemen.

So who is it who thinks that he is far?

It is my estimate that the issue in Lebanon is not just an issue of Israeli expansion. Lebanon is being prepared to become the hole into which all the Arabs are driven with their men, their money and their differences.

It is the hole that is intended to make the Arabs forget what preceded it. A man forgets one catastrophe only when another follows it.

It is a hole that is intended to be an arena of destruction where Lebanon is sacrificed. But it is also intended to make the Arabs forget Palestine, 5 June and what is between them.

Consider the fearful situation in Lebanon. In this small area of land, there are all these armies and armed forces:

There is a Palestinian army, armed forces of the Lebanese National Movement, other armed forces of the (Maronite) Lebanese Front, a Syrian army, Saudi and Sudanese forces complementing the Arab deterrence forces. It is also said that there are Iraqi volunteers.

There are U.N. emergency forces from France, Iran and Norway and others to come. Some of these forces are not above suspicion, meaning that nobody knows when they obey Waldheim and when they obey their governments behind Waldheim's back.

There is also an Israeli army.

Most of these forces fight and quarrel, at times wittingly and at others unwittingly and at times intentionally and at others unintentionally.

It is a miniature world war.

It is a cake with a hundred fingers in it while the hundreds of thousands of the real owners of the cake are displaced, homeless, seeking refuge from one of these 20 armies or just out in the open waiting.

So as not to fan the fires, we will be content to say that we all know that each of these armies has an opinion, a line and points of disagreement with the others.

This is the situation.

Make a cool calculation: what dangers will certainly result from all this?

What is required with utmost speed and decision is to defuse the inter-Lebanese dispute. All are now required to concede their demands.

It is also required to defuse the Lebanese-Palestinian dispute and to concentrate, as we explained in the previous article, on ousting Israel from Lebanon as quickly as possible and on striking the iron while still hot.

Of whom is this required?

Of the Arab decision makers who should first exert pressure on themselves to keep their differences away from Lebanon and should then exert pressure on the local parties in Lebanon itself and should then focus on a desperate confrontation with Israel.

Don't ask us how?

We have talked and talked and talked. But we are common people and this is all that we have.

There remains for me to ask out of surprise, even though nothing is surprising any more:

Isn't it strange that when the conflicts in Lebanon were inter-Arab conflicts, they were extremely active, strong and lively and the Arab rulers were spending a lot of their effort on them but when the conflicts turned into Israeli and international conflicts and when it became necessary to confront Israel, isolationism and the hostile foreign forces, the Arab activity died out and the interest diminished?

0 people,

Unite Lebanon, divide it administratively or make it federal. Any solution is acceptable now, if it is reached through agreement, with guarantees and with the Arab will, so that we may not lose Lebanon and so that we may confront Israel and all the covetous foreign forces. This is better than having things happen through interfighting and amputation.

[We should reach such a solution] so that none of the common people may one day say about the rulers and the commanders: they did not recognize the advice until it was too late.

And so that nobody may say what Princess 'A'ishah told her son Abu 'Abdallah Muhammad, the last king of Andalusia: "Weep like women for a kingdom that you have not protected like a man."

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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

ISRAELI PLANS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON ANALYZED

Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Apr 78 p 5

[Article by Ahmad Baha'-al-Din: "Will Israel Get Out of Lebanon?"]

[Text] The biggest question at present is: will Israel withdraw from southern Lebanon or not?

I don't mean by the biggest question that it is the most important because Israel is occupying bigger areas of three other Arab countries who are members of the United Nations and whose borders are recognized, namely Egypt, Syria and Jordan. Lebanon has only been added to the list. This had been, as I have mentioned in previous article, expected and certain to the extent that when it did happen, the Arab world, Lebanon itself and the Palestinians were not at all surprised.

I also mean that we should not forget the rest and the preceding and remember only southern Lebanon's occupation. It is one of the goals and objectives of the new invasion and occupation to divert the full attention of the world to the latest conquests so as to make the preceding conquest old, and perhaps forgotten.

I recall here an address made by Abba Eban from the U.N. rostrum when he was Israel's foreign minister.

It was in one of the sessions that I attended. I don't remember the year but it was before the 1973 war in any case and Israel was under the pressure of a previous peace campaign launched by President al-Sadat. Eban prepared for his speech through a major propaganda campaign which he launched in the American press about a peace initiative which he would launch.

The speech contained nothing new, naturally, except for Abba Eban's supreme skill in manipulating words. However, what has clung to my mind is the phrase he uttered at the conclusion of his speech with a mixture of disdain and threat: "I beg my colleagues the heads of the Arab

delegations not to hasten to answer my speech automatically now. The answer will be the familiar rejection. I beg them to think until tomorrow or after tomorrow before they use their right to reject. In 1949, they demanded the borders of 1948. In 1967, they demanded the borders of 1956 and I am afraid that there will come a day when they will demand the borders of 4 June 1967!"

Yes, this is what he said from the U.N. rostrum. This is Israel's policy.

One part of the reasons for the occupation of southern Lebanon is to pre-occupy the Arabs and the world with asking them [the Israelis] to withdraw from the latest land they occupied and to drop the demand for withdrawal from the previously occupied lands to a second degree of importance.

Some Information

It is well known that the Israeli leadership, like any military-political leadership, always has alternate plans fully prepared to meet all eventualities. They had a plan to cross the Suez Canal, for example, in the Suez front battles -- a plan such as that of Sharon which did not come impulsively but was, as proven later, prepared and organized previously. Even the crossing point was outlined by a certain kind of brick. The only difference was on whether to implement the plan to counter the corssing surprise or not. There was a plan to invade east Jordan, a plan to invade northeastern Jordan, a plan to invade southern Lebanon, etc.

The Israeli military school of thought is built on transferring the war into enemy territory as of the first moment. This is what they have always done, except in the October war as a result of the element of surprise. Yet, they did try in the bulge operation.

The information says that the Israeli Government has always had two plans and has always thought seriously of both. Should the world, especially the United States, put the squeeze on it, then there is the plan to occupy southern Lebanon. The pretext is there, namely the presence of the fedayeen.

There is also a plan to create any friction in order to destroy the Syrian army, especially its concentrated and sophisticated weapons, in 48 hours and then withdraw before the world awakens to the shock on the pretext that the operation is nothing but a pre-emptive strike.

The most important purpose of both plans is political, i.e. a fifth war to confuse the Arabs and the world insofar as the consequences of the third and the fourth wars are concerned. The purpose is also to mess up the Geneva cards and whatever leads to Geneva as a result of the 1973 war and to delay any Arab military threat for 10 more years. This is the most important thing. There is no harm in words and bickering as long as time passes and occupation continues.

Further Information

In Kissinger's time, the United States was aware of this but Kissinger found in Lebanon's civil war an alternative to an open Israeli attack that would provoke the world. Lebanese Maronite Leader Raymond Iddih has accused Kissinger's America of participating with Israel in igniting the fires of the Lebanese civil war with the aim of partitioning Lebanon and of confusing the Arab countries and pitting them against each other and I agree with this opinion.

Further Information

Carter's America had the same information and when Cyrus Vance, the new U.S. secretary of state, came to the area for the first time on a study tour, the most important thing he did was to convey a strong warning from Carter, the new president, to Begin, the new prime minister, not to try to mess up the game under any circumstances by embarking on a new military venture. Carter held Begin and Weizman, Begin's minister of defense, personally responsible.

But when more than a year passed on the strong warning and when the circle of peaceful pressure on Israel tightened and the fedayeen operation in Tel Aviv came, Israel found itself free to implement one of the two operations and so invaded southern Lebanon.

On the one hand, it did so for expansion which is the essence of the Israeli policy and Israel embarks on expansion whenever the opportunity is available under one name or another. On the other hand, Israel invaded southern Lebanon to confuse the general situation and to divert the attention of the Arabs and of the world from other occupied lands by occupying new territories.

Consequently, when I focus on withdrawal from southern Lebanon, I do so with the following reservation: this withdrawal should not make us forget the struggle for the other issues. But because southern Lebanon is the latest part of the Arab body that Israel has torn apart and because of the serious indication of this action which the Israelis have carried out, with such brutality and by using banned weapons while negotiating for peace, focusing on this invasion in words and in deeds is something necessary.

I believe that working with all possible means to achieve a quick and complete evacuation from southern Lebanon is something that deserves every effort and concentration by all the Arab countries with no exception.

I don't doubt that Israel attacked the south and notified the United States at the same time that it was embarking on a retaliatory operation to purge and mop up the resistance and that it would then withdraw quickly.

Those who have kept up with the events hour by hour find that the United States gave Israel the short time it found sufficient for this purpose.

But I don't doubt that Israel is ready to deceive the entire world, including the United States, with different means.

Israel did not enter to get out. It finds an explanation for everything. Please read the writings of Israel's rulers and their analyses and explanations of these matters.

If Israel wants from Lebanon 10 kilometers, for example, it has invaded 15 kilometers. Some important U.S. circles and papers have not been embarrassed to raise their eyebrows in surprise over the invasion but over Israel's going beyond the area at which it was supposed to stop.

The reason is that Israel knows that it will face pressure to make it withdraw. Consequently, it will express its goodwill by withdrawing from the supposedly extra 5 kilometers. It will have thus withdrawn, acted leniently and returned to the line that it actually wants to maintain.

Please see the chain of official Israeli statements since the June 1967 war and since Israel's occupation of whatever land it then occupied.

Israel said it did not want to get to the Suez Canal bank and its army did actually stop short of the canal. Defending this, Moshe Dayan said: If Israel reaches the Suez Canal, this will create for it international complications. But when they found that the land before them was empty and that there was no army between them and the Canal and when Johnson gave them the go ahead sign, they marched to the Suez Canal bank, thus leading to its closure because the closure of the canal may annoy Europe but will not concern the United States. Rather, this closure is beneficial to the United States militarily because it blocks the Russians' path to the Indian ocean. It is also beneficial to the United States economically because it increases western Europe's reliance on it.

They also said officially that they do not want the land but peace.

It is my estimate, and I know that many will disagree with me, that they were ready to withdraw, not from all the territories but from most of them, and that they did not dream of staying where they are more than 10 years. Consequently, it is also my estimate that Israel's position was getting more intransigent with time and not vice versa.

Why?

Because of the opportune conditions. The Arabs offered Israel endless disagreements and more important and serious behind-the-scenes disagreements than those of the pages of newspapers and the Israelis were aware of these

agreements of course. The United States, administration after administration, offered the Israelis more armament under the pretext that this would soften their position. I don't think that this pretext was followed out of ignorance of the essence of Israel's policy but rather out of disregard and of taking others for fools.

The world did no more than to issue resounding resolutions. This brings to mind the story of Moshe Sharit, the first Israeli minister of foreign affairs, when he cabled from the United Nations warning Ben Gurion not to violate the first truce and seize the Negev, "considering that no more than a few weeks have passed since Israel's membership in the United Nations and Israel must demonstrate its respect for the U.N. resolutions." Ben Gurion answered him: "How many armored brigades does the United Nations have?" He violated the truce and seized the Negev.

This is exactly what Israel intends to do in Lebanon under the pretext of retaliating and disciplining. It started to occupy and to expand. When it was asked to withdraw, it procrastinated. It will withdraw, just to sprinkle ashes in the eyes, from certain parts in the hope of gaining time and staying in the parts it wants to keep.

Meanwhile, it will proceed silently to create a quiet fait accompli. It is helping to form a Maronite army officially and openly allied with it. Sa'd Haddad, this army's leader, asks Israel over Tel Aviv's television to stay. We should not forget Menahem Begin's message to Carter before the Tel Aviv operation in which he said that he has a moral responsibility to protect the Christians in southern Lebanon. This was no simple statement and not one said in jest. It is a big and serious claim even though it started, as usual, as a small one. It also exposes the intentions.

Despite all this, Israel's ouster from the south is possible because its occupation is still fresh and because the entire world is against it, unlike the previous times, and because the United States has felt that it was deceived. This is why it has hastened to send a U.N. emergency force, and a larger than usual force at that. This will embarrass Israel. Some circles have also hinted at giving these forces more than the usual powers.

However, this requires many things from the Arabs. The least of these things is that the Arab countries agree unanimously on this point at least and coordinate their work for it. Let them enjoy their disagreements over other issues.

The least of which is also that no Arab side pretend that it wants war when it doesn't, that no Arab side struggle half-heartedly and that no Arab side offer token support because all these produce nothing, regardless of the propaganda benefits. These things are like the ancient Arab saying: no lands has it crossed and no backs has it broken.

The least of which is also that the Palestinians who have borne the burden alone, know that Israel's stay in southern Lebanon will do them no good and that killing one, 10 or 100 Israeli soldiers will not make up for this occupation.

War consists of advancing and retreating, attack and defense, sacrifice and caution. Struggle does not mean asking for death at any price. The revolutionaries should not get angry with these words because they emanate from the awareness of whatever is being hatched against them and of the enormous difficulties that no revolution has encountered as theirs has. They should in turn facilitate as much as possible the task of the international forces in this phase so that Israel may find no pretext.

Someone may say on the basis of this article: but Israel will not leave in any case.

This is very possible but we have to do all we can and then every occasion has what befits it.

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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

LACK OF FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN ARAB WORLD LAMENTED

Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 21 Apr 78 p 24

[Article by Dr Salwa Abu Sa'dah: "The Food Problem: A New Challenge Confronting the Arab World"]

[Text] Politics and economics are inseparable. This is self-evident, as confirmed by past experience over a long time. It is an actual fact which will continue to maintain its permanence in the present and the future.

What is strange is that in spite of the fact that we Arabs are convinced of this, and in spite of the assurance of our Arab scholars and experts that with our abilities, resources and competence which qualify us we should hold an international position, and we should have important political and economic clout, nevertheless, in reality we are still far from the practical and actual embodiment to profit from these abilities and potentialities. Although it has been established that the Arab world forms a unit in which the resources form an integrated whole the likes of which are not to be found and are not as abundant in other groups [of nations] such as, for example, the European Common Market group.

Studies, investigations and scientific reports have established that the countries of the Arab world have abundant potential. This potential is not limited only to petroleum and its large reserves under the surface of the Arab land, and it is not limited to the fantastic figures of the Arabs' abundant monetary reserves. Rather, there are also mines and many other resources of various kinds. The agricultural potential in the abundant vast cultivable areas in the Sudan, for example, opens a vast sphere for the supplying of foodstuffs. There are many other multifarious examples.

These are real facts which, when they are fully exploited, would make it possible to increase this interconnection and this integration with the perception of us Arabs of the bond which binds us, and it would be possible for the Arab finally to perceive that there is a practical benefit other than language and history alone, which binds him with other Arabs;

something more powerful, something palpable and tangible in his daily life, which makes the concept of Arab nationalism and Arab unity clearer to him, and which in the end is finally a more urgent requirement which is not a mere slogan which is raised during times of intensity [of feelings].

This Arab feeling has not yet been achieved in reality. That is because of the predominance of the imaginary theoretical view of our words and deeds. As for practical application, we are assured daily that no projects have been implemented and no money has been invested. Rather, there are only reports, figures and recommendations!

The Arabs and Feeding Themselves

Is it reasonable that in spite of all this continual talk of unity, consolidation, Arab solidarity, air clearing, and working to close ranks, the Arabs should be halted, unable to feed themselves? Should the citizen be censured after that whenever he feels frustration and even impotence in his attempt to answer the question: How can we have all those capabilities and still be marking time?

We are not progressing to break and cross over obstacles in the way of progress in self-affirmation even in the simplest occurrences of our daily life, namely the sphere of nutrition and providing wheat and other foodstuffs for the Arab citizens.

How is our ability to feed ourselves not in our hands and its destiny not subject to our will, when it is demanded that our word be influential and exert pressure in the external sphere? How indeed, when half of our food consumption is in the hands of the international monopolies?

By examining some of the figures and submitting some of the solutions which deal with this topic, we can examine the extent of the seriousness and urgency of that matter, and the seriousness of the situation it has reached.

It is well known that the Arab citizen depends basically on starchy foods in general. Investigations show that the ratio of caloric energy derived from grains and starchy tubers to the total caloric energy consumed amounts to approximately 60 percent on the average in all the Arab countries. This is what the experts consider an index of the lack of nutritional balance in the Arab diet. On the other hand, we find that the ratio does not exceed 24 percent in the United States, for example, 26 percent in Austria and 39 percent in Italy. This high ratio is also an indication of the average low level in the individual.

The thing that gives the problem serious and urgent dimensions, as shown by Arab economic analysts, is that it is not limited only to the current deficiency in some varieties or quantities of the necessary nutrients, but extends even to the security of this very consumption. This can be

made clear, if we realize that the Arab world imports half of the grain it consumes, which amounts to 10 million tons, to meet its food consumption requirements, in addition to the importation of food imports which are also considered necessary, such as sugar, vegetable oils, fats, meat and dairy products, substances which it is difficult to do without.

The problem now is considered not only an economic one, but has become a political problem of prime importance. It is, as Dr Sayyid Jaballah, former minister of planning, expressed it:

"The undisputed fact is that the Arab nation has become dependent for approximately half its basic food supplies on exports from the United States, Canada, and Australia, the grain exporting nations. It is presently impossible for it to do without any quantity of its grain imports from them. On the contrary, they are in complete control of the export of grain to it."

With regard to the Arab need to import edible grain the following is politically evident:

The Arab region presently is the largest region importing edible grain, inasmuch as its imports exceed those of any other area in the world with an equivalent population.

9123

CSO: 4802

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

ABEDA CONSTRUCTION LOANS--The board of directors of the Arab Bank for Development in Africa agreed to grant new loans totalling \$21.77 million to contribute to the financing of the following projects: \$6 million for a road construction project in Burundi; \$6 million for an airport construction project in Lesotho; \$3.92 million for an electric power project in Libya; \$4.7 million for a textile project in Uganda; \$1 million for the study of the advantages of the African Wire and Wireless Communications Regional Project; \$150,000 to finance the study of the advantages of the poultry and fish production project in Uganda. That was decided by the board of directors of the abovementioned bank at the meetings of their tenth session held at the Hilton Hotel in Khartoum on 7 and 8 March 1978. These new loans accordingly have increased the volume of the bank's financing operations in Africa up to \$231,066,000 from which 25 states have benefited, and which have been assigned to finance 33 projects and five surveys concerning economic and technical advantages. The board of directors approved the annual statement of the bank for 1977, and transmitted it to the board of bank presidents to be approved by them at their fourth session scheduled to take place in Riyadh on 19 and 20 April 1978. The board of directors also approved some reports submitted by the chairman of the board and the general manager about a number of technical and administrative matters. [Text]
Khartoum AL-SAHAFAH in Arabic 9 Mar 78 p 1/7 2693

EGYPTIAN IMPORTS FROM SUDAN--The undersecretary of state of the Ministry of Commerce for Commercial Representation Affairs in the Arab Republic of Egypt declared to AL-SAHAFAH that the meetings held in Cairo during the last week of January by the joint Sudanese-Egyptian trade commission resulted in agreement between Egypt and Sudan, under which Egypt this year will import beef and live cattle from the Sudan for an amount of \$5.5 million, camels for an amount of \$11.25 million, sheep for an amount of \$1.25 million, sesame seeds for an amount of \$14 million, leather for an amount of \$4.5 million, processed fodder for an amount of \$1 million, cotton seeds and oil cakes for an amount of \$480,000 and kernels for an amount of \$3 million. The Egyptian underscretary of state of the Ministry of Commerce mentioned that the trade exchange protocol for 1978 signed at the direction of the above meetings provides for an increased trade exchange volume between the

two countries -- up to \$89 million against \$56 million the past year, i.e. a \$33 million increase. The protocol also provides for the implementation of the system concerning authorizations directly established with banks for some goods, free trade transactions in Egypt with the Sudan for both the public and private sectors, the transformation of the company for the sale of Egyptian products in Khartoum into a trade center for Egyptian products in the Sudan, and the resumption of the activities of the Egyptian al-Nasr Import and Export Company in the Sudan. [Text] [Khartoum AL-SAHFAH in Arabic 9 Mar 78 p 17] 2693

KUWAITI ELECTRICITY LOAN -- Amman -- JNA -- A royal decree has been issued ratifying the law approving the loan agreement to finance the second project to develop electricity in Jordan. The agreement was concluded between Jordan and the Arab Economic and Social Development Fund. In accordance with the agreement, the fund agrees to grant Jordan a loan of 5.9 million Kuwaiti dinars to cover part of the costs of the second project to develop electric power in Jordan. The project provides for expanding al-Husayn thermal electricity plant by adding to it two steam-operated power generating units, each with a capacity of 66 megawatts, and building a dual transmission line with a 132-kilovolt tension and with a length of about 40 kilometers extending from al-Husayn thermal plant to a new transformer south of Amman, in addition to building a subsidiary transformer. [Text] [Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Apr 78 p 2] 8494

CSO: 4802

SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN SALUTES TARAKI

Valletta MEDITERRANEAN NEWS in English 21 May 78 pp 4, 11

[Article by Nasim Ahmed]

[Text] The full international and domestic implications of the violent military coup in Afghanistan may take some time to unfold but there can be no doubt about the direction which the government led by President Nur Mohammed Taraki is taking.

On the domestic front, Taraki's "revolutionary government" has embarked on a programme to end "feudal" control over land holdings and begun a purge of "reactionary" elements from the government, particularly in the Afghan Foreign Ministry. In the international sphere, Taraki has spoken out against "imperialism" and military alliances.

An under-developed and poor country, Afghanistan has a very small privately-owned industrial sector. The natural gas purification plant and major industries in Afghanistan are already under the control of the government.

Most of the gas produced in Afghanistan is transmitted by pipeline to the neighbouring Soviet Central Asian republics. Over the years, the USSR has become Afghanistan's major trading partner and provider of economic and military aid.

Nearly 70 per cent of agricultural holdings in Afghanistan belong to rich land-owners, many of whom belong to the late President Daud's Modammadzai tribe. The sweeping land reforms promised by President Taraki should win for his government sympathy and support among the impoverished peasants.

Before carrying out the land reforms and other socio-economic changes, however, Afghanistan's new ruler is apparently anxious to remove from the government administration officials loyal to the previous regime and who may resist or sabotage the proposed reforms.

The widespread purge in government offices currently under way should provide job opportunities for many radical and young members of the educated middle class who were barred from government service by the late

Daud regime.

Through sweeping land and social reforms, Taraki's government also hopes to enlist the support of Afghan tribes inhabiting strategic areas adjoining the Pakistani provinces of Baluchistan and North West Frontier. The fierce Pathan tribes living on both sides of the "Durand Line" separating Afghanistan from Pakistan have always been disinclined of government authority, whether Afghan or Pakistani. The independent outlook of the Pathan tribes was recognised by the former British rulers of India and independent Pakistan. The government writ is not applied fully to the tribal areas in Pakistan even today.

Taraki's pronouncements in support of humane and progressive tenets of Islamic faith were welcomed by the Muslim ulemas (clergymen).

This significant development, together with the provision of better facilities for high school education, should help the new government to counter opposition from Muslim League leaders and disident tribes.

In formulating and announcing their policies and reforms, Taraki and other members of the new government have been careful not to offend the strong Islamic

sentiments and traditions of the Afghan people.

The stand taken by Taraki against "imperialism" and military pacts has been welcomed by the Soviet Union, Cuba and Libya. The unusually outspoken statement made by the Soviet Ambassador in Pakistan, Sarwar Azimov, brought into sharp focus the Soviet attitude to and expectations of the revolutionary developments in Afghanistan.

After the consolidation of the new regime in Kabul, Afghan opposition to military pacts and support for the Soviet collective security plan for Asia is expected to increase. — NASIM AHMED.

CSO: 4820

ALGERIA

FRENCH INTERVENTION IN AFRICA DENOUNCED

Gunboat Diplomacy Rejected

Algiers REVOLUTION AFRICAINE in French 10-16 May 78 pp 4-5

[Editorial: "No to Gunboat Diplomacy"]

[Text] The imperialist intervention in the Congo, now Zaire, in the fall of 1964 was done under the pretext of insuring the security and interests of the United States in that country. A few months later, emboldened by the success of the initial operation, the Americans used the same pretexts to land marines in Santo Domingo and to crush there the popular uprising led by Colonel Caamaño. That is how the escalation of American interventions which were to lead them to Indochina and the debacle of April 1975 began.

The American heroes being tired, decimated, without glory on the battle-fields where the alibis for the protection of interests no longer managed to disguise their desire to impose on the peoples the maintenance of the neocolonial status quo which these people are fighting against, France was there to take over.

Remember the various meetings during 1975 and in May 1976 between the present French head of state and the-then President Richard Nixon and later President Gerald Ford to discuss ostensibly world economic problems but having as their essential focus the new division of labor on the international chessboard. It is reasonably possible to trace back to that period the assignment to the France of President Valery Giscard d'Estaing the role of gendarme in Africa, Asia being militarily untamable and beyond the military capabilities of the new policeman while Latin America was earmarked to the intrigues of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency which are generally effective and discreet enough to make it unnecessary to resort to major military measures to redress certain situations.

Roughly at the same time some commentaries, very likely inspired ones, bitterly deplored the fact that France, a nuclear power, should possess atomic bombs but not tactical forces for limited operations which its interests or the security of French citizens abroad could mandate.

In other words, the French right and its allies protested against the fact that France had only powerful arms available whose use is highly improbable and dangerous but not conventional forces for rapid, limited actions free of major risks.

That was the period of psychological preparation assigning the new goals to the army as outlined by the United States-French agreement.

The organization of such a tactical force was not delayed. On 19 May [1976] President Giscard d'Estaing, on a visit to the United States, for the first time tried to implement that understanding by proposing on a visit to Washington the dispatch of French troops to Lebanon. His proposal being unanimously rejected by all the belligerents, President Giscard d'Estaing waited for a fresh situation created by the Israeli invasion of Lebanon to realize what he had been denied in 1976 and to include French troops in the contingent of blue-helmeted United Nations peacekeeping forces.

The bloody incidents between exclusively French troops and the Palestinian-progressive side reflect the unavowed motivations of France's insistence that French troops be included in UNIFIL [United Nations Intervention Forces in Lebanon].

In May 1977 President Giscard d'Estaing inaugurated his interventionist policy in the war in Shaba [Zaire].

A few months later he did likewise in a more bloody and spectacular manner in the Western Sahara by sending "Jaguar" planes to bomb Saharan fighting columns.

In order to try to justify its action Paris had reiterated the same arguments as those used by the Americans in Vietnam. In the latter case, in order to safeguard American interests and answer the call for help issued by Ngo Dinh Diem, in the former case in order to insure the security of the French and to rescue at his request the regime of President Moktar Ould Daddah. So be it. France is free to choose its side and its friends. But let it at least have the decency to designate them more clearly and not under fallacious pretexts which were eroded a long time ago by the use which others have made of them before France and without success at that. The French aggression of 1 May against the Saharan people is too reminiscent of that of another 1 May during which five French citizens were arrested for people not to think of revenge.

France was not motivated by any need to assure the security of French citizens in Mauritania since the French attack occurred in Western Sahara. In contrast to what Paris affirmed, it is in no way at the request of Mauritania but of Morocco that the French "Jaguar" aircraft intervened in the fighting. In a message addressed to the Secretary General of the United Nations, the Secretary General of the Polisario Front denounced

French intentions to try to take over from Spain in Western Sahara and invited the United Nations to assume its responsibilities in the face of France's designs in a conflict that is occurring far from its borders and the merits of which are still under study before the international community.

On has par^e Abdelaziz Bouteflika, member of the Algerian Revolutionary Council and minister of foreign affairs, made a tour in several African capitals with the essential purpose of consolidating Algeria's relations with sister-countries and examining the consequences of neocolonialist provocations.

Progressive Africa will not allow itself to be intimidated by the use of force against its achievements. Military intervention which is reactivating the war in Chad and the aggression against the Saharan people, even if it receives a few complacent okays from the backers of the neocolonial order, is unanimously rejected and condemned by the whole of progressive Africa. Though there is no ambiguity in this respect it is still necessary to clarify the intentions of the French head of state on French-Algerian relations. Early in March 1978, that is, a few days before the French legislative elections, Paris had expressed its desire for a normalization of French-Algerian relations after deliberately complicating them and had even proposed a way to bring this about.

Once the elections were over and Paris having resumed its gunboat diplomacy which runs head on into Algeria's concepts of international relations, one wonders whether Valery Giscard d'Estaing really feels the need to normalize his relations with Africa or whether he has used the March opening as an electoral maneuver in order not to lose the votes of those dissatisfied with his Algerian and African policy. Whatever his intentions, the use of guns and "Jaguar" aircraft is the surest way to complicate these relations. If this is the wish of President Giscard d'Estaing, he has succeeded completely but his policy will not. The whole of progressive Africa condemns and fights such a policy.

French Armed Might Used Extensively

Algiers REVOLUTION AFRICAINE in French 10-16 May 78 pp 32-34

[Article by D.B.: "Jaguars at Every Point of the Compass"]

[Text] To try to justify the aggression committed last week against the fighters of the Polisario Front, the French Government once again invoked the fact that the security of French citizens was allegedly threatened. Even if such an argument were to satisfy those who are still taken in as regards the intentions of the French President in the Western Sahara, this time it can be accepted only with difficulty.

The deadly raid of the French "Jaguar" planes occurred south of Bir N'Zaren, in the heart of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, that is to say, very far from any location where French cooperation program personnel were to be found and also very far from the territory of Mauritania to which France is reportedly bound by a "defense agreement." This new aggression in Western Sahara confirms the colonialist policy to which President Valery Giscard d'Estaing is personally attached. The latter, simultaneously, cynically exalts the slogan "Africa for the Africans" so as to deceive those who are still prepared to be so. What is more, the raid against the Saharan fighters does not surprise anyone because of the fact that the French expeditionary corps dispatched in November 1977 has never left Mauritania while the "Jaguars" never left the Mauritanian and Saharan air spaces even if their operations have so far been limited in scope for essentially electoral reasons.

What is new in this aggression is that it is taking place at the request of Moroccan units which, moving from Guelta Zemmour and Dakhla to effect a sweep at Bir N'Zaren, had found themselves encircled by the Polisario Front. The assistance of the French air force stationed in Mauritania reveals the existence of a French-Moroccan defense pact held secret from French and Moroccan public opinion up to now. This confirms the fact that the tripartite Madrid agreement led to the tripartite defense pact in which the French Government which had placed all its weight behind the carving up of the Saharan territory is playing the role of an "umbrella" vis-a-vis the Moroccan-Mauritanian annexationist forces.

By virtue of this new military intervention in the case of Western Sahara, by virtue of its obstinacy in continuing its gunboat diplomacy, through the implementation of defense agreements directed against the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, the French Government has again assigned to itself the task of actively participating in the genocide against the Saharan revolution.

The pursuit of this adventure which generates concern and criticism in France as well as in the world and especially in Africa cannot be isolated from a group of actions for which the present French Government is responsible in the Third World, more particularly in Africa and the Arab world. The all-points interventionism of the French President in Zaire as well as in Chad, the Western Sahara, and southern Lebanon under cover of the United Nations peacekeeping force stems from the resolve of President Giscard d'Estaing to check by every means possible and if necessary by military action the advance of the movements of African liberation and the Arab world. Beyond the liberation movements, by suggesting the idea of a French-African "solidarity pact," the President of France strives to organize an "alliance" directed against the will of the Arab-African states and peoples to free themselves from the domination which imperialism continues to impose on them.

Far from evidencing the well-understood and mutually beneficial relations which can exist between France and the Arab-African world, it is the military

presence which characterizes the "good intentions" of Giscard d'Estaing's neocolonial policy. All his actions vis-a-vis Africa and the Arab world give the lie to his soothing statements. He is beefing up his military presence. He is arming the most reactionary states all the way from South Africa to Morocco and is transforming them into bases of aggression. He is launching himself into military adventures, previously in Benin and in Zaire, today in Chad, Western Sahara, and Lebanon. He is detaching Mayotte from the Comoro Republic in order to retain a French military presence there. He is maintaining powerful bases in Ndjamena and Djibouti, a sizable fleet in the Indian Ocean, and so on. This is not the subject of any doubt whatever. In all cases what is involved is intervention characterized by French neocolonialism for which no justification whatever could serve as an excuse.

A Constant Line

Will Africa be able to meet this challenge? We shall have an initial answer to the question during this month [May 1978] on the occasion of the fifth French-African conference. The representatives of more than 20 African states with different political systems will go to Paris for this purpose and we shall then see who will win in the matter of respect for the independence and right of each people to choose its own way or the present neocolonial and aggressive African policy of France.

On its part Algeria--as well as all the really progressive countries of the continent--does not have any illusions on this score. It is not deceived about the African designs of the French Government despite the desire evidenced a few months ago by Paris to normalize its French-Algerian relations. Incidentally, is it not the French Government which has deliberately sabotaged French-Algerian cooperation which could have been fruitful for the two peoples and this in order to try to brake the development of a country which purchased its independence at a high price? Today more than ever the normalization advocated by Paris can surely not be concretized as long as its neocolonialist intervention continues in the Maghreb, endangering the peace and security in the region and certainly beyond it in the Arab-African sphere. In that respect French military intervention in the Sahara can only represent a "worsening" factor in the climate of French-Algerian relations.

Exactly 2 weeks ago, in his message on the state of the nation, President Houari Boumediene stressed this point without ambiguity: "No negotiation can take place seriously if a foreign threat hovers over this part of Africa and the Arab world."

The line followed by Algeria is as constant as it is clear: Algeria's support of the Saharan revolution in its just and legitimate struggle is one of its fundamental components, one of its "essential positions" which nothing will oblige it to relinquish, as President Boumediene reasserted.

But so far, the government of Giscard d'Estaing has shown through its actions that it is more attached to the spirit of Fashoda than to that which should prevail today in the interest of the African and French peoples for the development of a genuine French policy of cooperation with Africa and the Arab world based on reciprocal advantage and the mutual respect of independence. It implies first and foremost the abandonment by France of its interventionist policy which it continues to implement today.

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CSO: 4400

ALGERIA

FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA COMMENTS ON SAHARA, CHAD PROBLEMS

Niamey LE SAHEL in French 10 May 78 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Abdelaziz Bouteflika, Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs; Niamey; date not given]

[Text] The president of the Supreme Military Council, head of state of Niger, Lt Col Seyni Kountche, granted an audience yesterday morning [9 May 1978] to the Algerian minister of foreign affairs, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, and Gen Muhammed Shuwa, Nigeria's federal commissioner for trade. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, who was accompanied by the Algerian ambassador in Niger, Abderrahmane Nekli, was kind enough to answer questions by the press when he emerged from his audience.

Answer: As I leave Niamey for Algiers I would like to stress to you the fact that there exist between Algeria and Niger relations of friendship dictated by geographic contiguity, a common history of our peoples, and the complementarity of our cultural and economic interests.

It is therefore within a strictly bilateral framework that our visit was set so that we might reinforce the political dialogue and cooperation policy which is growing so harmoniously between our two countries from day to day.

I spoke of political cooperation because it goes without saying that each one acts according to his means and because we belong to the same subregion and are concerned by events which are taking place there.

Additionally, we have examined the problem of Western Sahara and explored its bases and its consequences. I believe that our concern is very great as regards the intervention of military units alien to the subregion and to Africa.

I would like to say once again that it would certainly be possible for France to pursue a more attractive policy in this region because of the

fact that France has extremely important common interests with all its partners of the Maghreb. Since these interests are and should be lasting, France could certainly find a more attractive policy for its interests and affirm additionally its neutrality as regards the problems of the region, and sustain further the principle of self-determination of the Saharan people, and try to enhance understanding and rapprochement.

Naturally, we discussed other matters with President Kountche going beyond the problem of the subregion. We spoke of the problems of West Africa, southern Africa, the Horn of Africa, and I think I am in a position to state that our views are very similar.

Question: Mr minister, concerning the Western Sahara, according to you what element is delaying the special summit meeting approved in Mauritius and Libreville? Could this summit be held before the next regular summit meeting of the Organization of Africa Unity in Khartoum?

Answer: What is holding up the summit most of all is certainly not the Saharan people who, day after day, are becoming increasingly aware of the explosive situation existing in the region. I recall that in Mauritius Algeria was one of the initiators of such a summit. Indeed, I believe that our continent is witnessing serious events. I find that the OAU has not even been able to meet at the ministerial level and much less at the heads of state level on either the problem of the Horn of Africa or the problem of Chad or that of Western Sahara.

Apparently, the OAU is suffering from imperialist efforts at destabilizing our continent and the policy of division which is pursued by some powers among which the colonialist instinct is awakening in curious fashion. It is necessary that without delay our peoples should become aware of their destiny and the significance of the role which they have to play in view of the need to forge such a destiny. We shall continue to militate in favor of this action because we would like African problems to be settled in the African way. The problem of the Sahara is a problem that is constantly on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly and other international conferences and other institutions. But Africa is experiencing an unfavorable period.

Question: Mr minister, how do you view the relations between France and Algeria on the morrow of the new intervention of the French air force against the forces of the liberation Army of the POLISARIO [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro] which Algeria supports?

Answer: There was a blood bath between France and Algeria with 1 and 1/2 million killed during the 8 years of war. We belong to that generation. On the French side people also belong to the generation which waged war on us. It is therefore natural that the relations between Algeria and France should involve a personal dimension. However, the role of political leaders

is precisely to quiet negative feelings and to translate what is best in the interests of the peoples and their remote aspiration. We have sought to have on the French side an activist partner for the true decolonization of the peoples and the extension of democratic relations among the large, intermediate-sized, and small countries. We have not reached that point. There have been cases of cooperation between Algeria and France. Since independence, we have strived to consolidate very significantly our relations on the basis of national independence, and I believe that we are able to say that we are aligned with each other, that we are an independent country with reference to the interests of the West and the East, that we are a socialist, anti-imperialist country within, and that the revolution is doing well. Still, we have to be very vigilant.

While we understand that France has economic, political, and cultural interests and military cooperation with such or such a country, we cannot in any justify the policy of pact-making, the policy of what is called common defense, and still less the policy of operational military intervention at the Algerian border, in Chad, or elsewhere on our continent. We support a policy of Africa for the Africans. We are against the intervention of extra-African powers in African affairs.

Question: Mr minister, to return to the problem of Western Sahara, recently a fishing agreement was signed between Morocco and the Soviet Union. Some have interpreted this agreement as a recognition of the reality of Moroccan sovereignty over Saharan waters by the Soviet Union. Do you have any comments to make on this subject?

Answer: I would like to say one thing: The problem of the Saharan people is comparable to the problem of national liberation struggle waged by any Third World country for the purpose of the realization of its national aspirations. These national liberation struggles could conceivably follow interests that are different from those of one or the other superpower and this is not surprising to us.

During Algeria's 8 years of war we secured our common destiny. Even though I have no possibility whatever of making a value judgment, not having here the objective facts regarding this agreement, I am extremely skeptical regarding the commitment of the Soviet Union to any policy which runs counter to the self-determination of the Saharan people because according to the philosophy of the Soviet resolution on the anti-imperialist and anticolonialist option I believe that this could not be the policy of the USSR.

Question: One final question, Mr minister. We would like to know whether you discussed with President Kountche the situation prevailing in Chad. In what way does Algeria suggest that the problem of Chad might be solved?

Answer: You know that there are no taboo subjects in talks between the leaders of Niger and those of Algeria. Thus, we discuss all problems on a general level, African problems in a particular manner, and the problems of the region and subregion even more deeply because they affect us directly.

The problems of Chad are very worrisome and I would like to tell you that Algeria stands for the territorial integrity of all African states and for the unity of the African peoples. This is a position of principle from which we shall not budge. I would also like to say that as far as we are concerned we had in some way been deliberately sidelined from any possibility of a solution to the problem of Chad and we contented ourselves with congratulating all those who participated in the discussions at the Sebha I and Sebha II conferences.

I do not know what happened, but finally I believed, I allowed myself to be talked into the fact that there was such a thing as the principle of nonintervention of foreign powers. And for this specific case it is France which was the country in question. Now, since that visit I have been reading the French press from time to time. I have even read very objective articles in LE MONDE, for example, which reflect the emotion of French public opinion as regards the intervention of French forces which, incidentally, had not proved themselves at the time of the late President Francois Tombalbaye.

It should be said that such intervention has lasted several years now but has not, for all that, settled the problem militarily because it is a fundamentally political problem. Accordingly, one should perhaps wish that all non-African powers stop interfering in this affair.

Algeria, which has excellent relations with Niger, Libya, Sudan, and Chad, naturally wishes from the bottom of its heart that this other focus of tension should abate very rapidly. For with the Saharan affair we seem to be witnessing a complementary policy of the imperialist goals of our continent's destabilization.

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CSO: 4400

ALGERIA

MOHAMED SALAH YAHIAOUI DISCUSSES UGTA, UNPA CONGRESSES

Algiers REVOLUTION AFRICAINE in French 26 Apr-2 May 78 pp 12-17

[Interview with Mohamed Salah Yahiaoui, member of the Revolutionary Council and executive in charge of the National Liberation Front, by Mohamed Foudil, editor in chief of the FLN's weekly organ AL-MILJAHID; Algiers; date not given]

[Text] In an interview granted to our colleague Mohamed Foudil, editor in chief of the weekly AL-MILJAHID, the Arabic-language central organ of the FLN, Mohamed Salah Yahiaoui, member of the Revolutionary Council and executive in charge of the party apparatus, proceeded with an analysis of the Fifth UGTA [General Union of Algerian Workers] Congress which, according to him, constitutes the frame of reference of the meetings of the other mass organizations, specifically those of the UNPA [National Union of Algerian Peasants] which took place this week.

Question: Mr executive in charge of the party apparatus, what is your opinion of the role of information in the success of the UGTA congress?

Answer: The role of information should not be situated haphazardly because the information mission is permanent and present in any revolutionary action. If one takes the example of the Fifth UGTA Congress one finds that it was necessary that the information effort be undertaken sufficiently early to explain all the requirements of renovation and reorganization so as to face the needs of the new stage of revolutionary action.

Furthermore, the informational effort should deepen and enlarge its field of action in the sectors of production and management by treating the essential problems facing these sectors and which involve the workers directly.

Too, information can help to clarify the various aspects of the problems that arise by stressing positive achievements and by denouncing deficiencies.

Such action waged conscientiously can enrich the efforts made by the workers during their congress to identify a direction in keeping with the demands of the new stage and to elaborate an action program which reflects the real needs of all the social classes.

The information effort should thus continue after the congress so that it may explain its positive results and stress the need to implement decisions and recommendations by highlighting the new aspects and signs of health which have appeared during this stage preceding the FLN congress.

Question: The workers' congress indeed revealed a certain number of new aspects which are signs of good health. Would you elaborate on this matter?

Answer: The results of the Fifth UGTA Congress have demonstrated in striking manner that the working class is completely aware of its role and responsibilities in the context of the socialist revolution. While the decisions and recommendations made constitute evidence of success, the same is true of the climate which prevailed at this congress. Indeed, as I already underscored, the discussions were the extension of the popular discussions witnessed by the country during the campaign involving the ratification of the National Charter and which ingrained further the popular and socialist content of our revolution.

Besides, the discussions occurred on the basis of our circumstances and this was one of the factors enabling the congress to achieve positive results, for each time that there is a discussion on the basis of experience in the field one is sure to achieve concrete results and a clearer vision. Nothing positive can be achieved if one places oneself outside concrete reality.

I would also like to note another new aspect which has appeared in the course of this congress. It is the courage with which the shortcomings and errors of the past were described and criticized. This represents a sign of health which should be encouraged and extended. People should not be afraid to confront us with a survey of our actions, for frankness and rigor in the analysis of negative aspects condition the success of our experience. This, I repeat, is a sign of the health of our revolution and the justness of its orientation, for a strong revolution is one which encourages criticism and self-criticism to evaluate its action constantly and to correct its errors.

The revolution which fears criticism and seeks to conceal its shortcomings and its problems is a dying revolution. Our revolution is not afraid of criticism because it has solid foundations. The forthcoming FLN congress will represent a historic opportunity to extend this revolutionary method.

Question: The peasants' congress will be held shortly. To what extent can the success of the UGTA congress influence the meetings of the UNPA?

Answer: The peasants' congress is as important as that of the workers because the peasants constitute one of the essential forces of the revolution. Hence the need to strive for the success of this congress. Too, we have taken all the measures in terms of preparation in order to insure all the conditions of success while respecting the principles to which we committed ourselves at the time of the preparation of the workers' congress.

We have already said that the meetings of the UGTA should truly be those of the workers and not a congress of trade union cadres. This means that it is necessary to reinforce the ties between the executives and the rank and file so that the word "representativeness" may assume all its significance because it constitutes the link between the revolution and its popular bases in the various sectors of collective life. This option should apply to the UNPA congress which should be a congress of peasants rather than a congress of officials.

The Fifth UGTA Congress should serve as example for the peasants who can benefit in several respects from it. The agricultural sector with all those who work in it constitutes a basic sector for economic and social development and we cannot progress and realize our goals in this field as long as this sector has not managed to rid itself of the numerous problems which it faces in terms of production and management.

A certain number of conditions have been met to insure the success of the peasants' congress. In addition to the important ideological document represented by the National Charter, the democratic spirit which prevailed in the course of the preparatory meetings must be extended to the endeavors of the congress in order to faithfully reflect the opinions and concerns of a large group of the peasant rank and file and finally to achieve a clear vision of the problems which arise in this sector and which must be posed in correct manner this time.

The exercise of democracy in the context of the party and the spirit of the National Charter should be feared only by those who oppose the socialist option. The absence of democratization benefits only the deviationists.

When we assume democracy with courage in order to enrich experience and denounce deficiencies by calling things by their names, this democracy becomes a sacred mission.

I have no misgivings about the resolve and sincerity of the peasant masses which should be fully reflected through the decisions and recommendations of the congress.

Question: As you have already underscored, Mr executive in charge of the party apparatus, everything that we can say and write will remain a dead letter as long as it is not implemented in the field.

According to you, how should we hasten the application of the decisions made?

Answer: Indeed, implementation is the final purpose of any planning. It is in truth the test for any activist whatever may be the level of his responsibility and his place of work.

The major problems witnessed by our important sectors originate specifically from this deficiency in the implementation of decisions.

The revolutionary duty for any activist is specifically to see, not through hollow slogans but rather by concrete and continuous action, to the implementation of the programs outlined. It is to struggle against any form of parasitism and sloth and any tendencies to shun responsibility and shift it to others.

It is through concrete implementation that it is possible to judge the genuine committed activists convinced by revolutionary options. It is by means of production and management that it is possible to judge the competence and degree of responsibility of each individual.

The decisions taken reflect our options and our aspirations to progress and well-being. It is thus natural that the final goal should be the implementation of these decisions.

Socialism will continue to remain no more than a slogan as long as it is not implemented in concrete manner by everyone in the fields of education and culture, industry, agriculture, public health--in short, in the life of each individual. Socialism is the only means to achieve a better life in a context of harmony and equality of opportunity. It is the elimination of exploitation so that the effort and competence of everyone may benefit the collectivity.

Unfortunately, there are people for whom socialism is a mask, a slogan which people pretend to follow at every turn as if it were an end in itself.

Socialism is a harsh and permanent struggle which has to be waged on several fronts in order to achieve better social organization to mobilize the workers, peasants, and young people in harmony, complementarity, and clarity of objectives and in work places and executive positions, in the conviction that the development of the individual occurs through work.

Such is the type of the socialist individual who should consider himself both the means and end of his action. He is the means when he wages the fight for socialism at his place of work itself. He is also the end when he enjoys the fruit of his labor.

Question: The reports of the rank and file which will be presented at the UNPA congress undoubtedly reflect conditions in the agricultural sector. How should these reports be taken maximum advantage of?

Answer: It is expected that these reports will faithfully reflect realities in the agricultural sector. They should expose all the problems experienced by our agriculture and contribute at the same time and in responsible manner to anticipating adequate solutions by elaborating a plan of action in order to limit errors. As for the best way to take advantage of these reports, in my opinion it consists in translating the advice and proposals into an action program and in providing for it the moral and material conditions necessary for its implementation.

For there to be a climate likely to benefit the congress with all the needed advice, proposals, and clear vision, the representatives of peasants have to enjoy the confidence of a considerable number of producers. They have to orient their debates toward the strengthening of democracy. They have to discuss the problems with a sense of responsibility.

The importance of this sector does not escape anyone because it constitutes the stimulus of our development and the determining factor in our struggle against underdevelopment. There is no doubt that our success in this sector will insure for us major progress along the path of development. The agrarian revolution has made possible the emergence of a new life in our countryside finally free from all forms of exploitation.

The revolution has set up a framework and new relations between on one hand the land as a collective resource and on the other the individual as a social element capable of behaving according to socialist principle and cooperative work morality.

The realization of the revolution in our countryside should be in proportion to sacrifices accepted by this countryside during our liberation struggle.

The magnificent villages built and which are only part of the 1,000 planned [socialist] villages reflect the loyalty of the revolution to this countryside. A new world is in the process of being created in our countryside day after day on top of the ruins of the slums which for a long time symbolized the hideous image of colonialism.

The socialist village is one of the images of an Algeria which is striving tirelessly to build socialism.

The socialist village is not only a modern dwelling. It also represents the emergence of a new society, a new spirit of cooperation and mutual aid. It is a strategic base and a high place of the socialist revolution that we have to consolidate and protect.

Question: In your opinion what is the best way to preserve our achievements in the agricultural domain and what are the priorities which the organs emanating from this congress should meet?

Answer: Before everything else, the peasant and all those who have ties with the rural sector have to feel responsible in one way or another for the smooth flow of production. Any poverty in this sector is considered as a crime. The success of agriculture is an important achievement for everyone for it demonstrates that each of us has assumed his role in the context where he finds himself. The top priority is thus the quantitative and qualitative improvement of production. However, a certain number of conditions have to be met to extend this goal. They are as follows:

1. It is necessary to establish a practical program of teaching the peasants how to read and write because it is not possible to have modern agriculture with archaic implements and people who know neither how to read nor to write.

That is the priority of priorities. All the organs and entities connected with agriculture must undertake in short order measures to teach reading and writing as well as to provide professional training in order to improve the skills of peasants who are still very far from the level demanded by modern agriculture. It is not only a matter of the professional level or the capacity to use an implement but also of the mentality of our fellahin.

This action should not assume the form of a limited campaign within a given time period but rather a revolutionary activity with modern methods.

2. The other priority which is no less important consists in seeing to the acquisition of political awareness by producers in this sector. Revolutionary action being indivisible, it demands both technical competence and political awareness. Thanks to this awareness experienced in daily action, the fellah is better able to play his role in his production unit at a cooperative or even within the framework of the large family of the socialist village. From that point he knows that the success of agriculture constitutes a success for himself and that its future is intimately linked to his own.

What is involved is to achieve through such awareness a kind of self-defense within the revolution in order to protect its achievements.

This is a difficult struggle. Accordingly, we have to identify an avant garde capable of assuming responsibility for pursuing revolutionary action and extending it just as it is necessary to organize and mobilize all the active forces of the revolution and under optimal conditions.

What is being done in Algeria represents a veritable revolution whether it be in terms of achievements or in terms of actions waged in order to organize and mobilize our forces.

The final goal is the development of the individual.

We must build a just and prosperous society rid of all forms of exploitation in independent Algeria.

ALGERIA

SOLUTION TO HOUSING PROBLEMS PROPOSED

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 1-2 May 78 p 4

[Article: "A Shortage to Be Overcome"]

[Text] Algiers (APS)--The housing shortage has reached a critical threshold that national construction resources alone cannot cross. Actual current capability amounts to 35,000 units a year whereas the target set by the Second Plan comes to 100,000. The disparity is a sizable one and its elimination will require both a substantial increase in construction capability and utilization of industrial techniques. This is the goal Algeria has set itself, one which demands twofold action: first, completion of a study on the appropriate method of industrialization and, second, the contribution of bilateral co-operation.

On the first point, it appears that we are moving toward a system of compatible components: standard prefabricated elements, interchangeable and usable everywhere. In connection with this, we have gone a step farther than just studies through the creation of the INERBA (Institute for Construction Research).

The problem of construction costs is of particular concern to the government which wants to turn housing into a promotion instrument for the benefit of the most underprivileged classes.

The other obstacle lies in the constraints that could foul the works up, which are called: physical and economic environment, supply gaps, poor management of construction sites, bureaucracy.

Bilateral cooperation with partners with a lot of experience in housing construction could be beneficial for Algeria in more ways than one. In addition to the transfer of technology, it guarantees vocational training in all branches of the construction industry. In its concern for just this, the Ministry of Housing and Construction plans to look into the broad

possibilities offered by international cooperation. The Algerian delegation's official visit to Poland, a country friendly to planned economy and rich in architectural experience and housing construction responds to this need just as the missions sent to the other socialist countries do.

To guarantee maximum efficacy in the field for this operation, Algeria will propose the formula of association with national enterprises to its partners. In addition to the ease in acquiring new techniques and in training skilled workers and Algerian management it assures, this formula makes it possible to better remove the constraints referred to above, which could tie up the construction program.

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ALGERIA

GATHERING OF PORT DATA DEEMED NECESSARY

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 25 Apr 78 p 4

[Article by H.A.: "Need for Supervising the Situation"]

[Text] The seminar on a census of port occupations, attended by some 100 students, opened yesterday morning at the Higher Institute for Maritime Studies (ISM) in the presence of the general manager of the National Port Office (ONP), Mr Harati, and the heads of the merchant marine, Mr Sebbah, and the ISM, Mr Sami.

The officials involved have successively directed their attention toward the serious problems the port sector is still and has been running into since independence. "For years," the director of the merchant marine said, "Algerian foreign trade has been typified by a growing volume of imports and exports of all kinds but the infrastructure has not kept pace." In fact, many national and private enterprises as well as various services occupy buildings on large lots whereas they could relocate to other areas since they engage in no port activities.

Who does what in the port? This is the appropriate question to ask to reach the desired conclusions. Mr Harati will say that the problem is more serious in the port of Algiers since preliminary estimates show some 753 occupations. Naturally, this does not mean we should tackle these occupations without first creating the conditions for reintegration of enterprises and companies that have branch offices or installations in a given port in Algeria.

During his exposition, the ONP general manager will stress the need for restoring efficiency to the country's ports and safeguarding the national economy's distinctive image.

As for the director of the ISM, he will stress the need for establishing a climate of confidence in the field to

effectively carry out the mission. Debate will then be encouraged on a certain number of questions and clarifications.

What are the limits of this census? The information bulletin handed out to the students covers all public occupations. Operations will affect all maritime public occupations, whether private or public enterprises. In other words, the census will affect all occupation-holders, including the ONP. All operators, the CNAN [National Algerian Shipping Company], the ONP or the SONAMA [National Administration Company], know which occupations are held by whom and could aid in orienting students and making their job a little easier.

The principle of management of the entire port sector is left to the ONP but there are concessionnaires, called occupation-holders, other than the ONP. He may be an individual or a corporation but, as the ISM director would say and not without humor, "the concessionnaire does not necessarily have the title of concession."

The census therefore does not tend to discriminate since it affects all occupation-holders without distinction and independently of their legal or other nature. In the immediate future, operations will consist solely of determining what the occupations are, and no more than that, and of evaluating them. The remainder of the job will be followed by reorganization decisions which have not yet been scheduled. Before going into the field, the students will be organized into brigades, after having received all the necessary technical training and orientation on the mission entrusted to them.

The importance of this census is seen as the start of a campaign of reorganization of the functions of the port which is vital to the economy of the nation, 98 percent of whose foreign trade is exclusively conducted by ocean shipping.

The census itself will take about 10 days due to the size of the problems encountered in the port of Algiers where more time will be required to complete it than elsewhere.

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ALGERIA

NEW ORGANIZATIONAL SYSTEM BEING TESTED IN SIDI BEL-ABBES

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 1-2 May 78 p 4

[Text] Sidi Bel-Abbes (APS)--Within the framework of an action program to promote economic production and productivity, particularly as regards agriculture, a pilot organizational system of the "combined agriculture" type was recently set up to manage certain Sidi Bel-Abbes Governorate production units. This initiative by the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Revolution is a follow-up of Mr Larbi Tayebi's last visit.

During the current farm season, the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Revolution proposes to test an organizational system based on cooperation and solidarity among several production units. The Sidi Bel-Abbes Governorate was chosen for this experiment as a test region because it occupies a select position in the farm sector with about 500,000 hectares of land used primarily for the cultivation of grains and for vineyards in the northern and central areas and by an association of 289 self-managed properties to farm a total land area of 496,000 hectares for a collective of 30,000 workers, about 9,000 of whom are seasonal. Thus in order to avoid challenging the autonomy or the legal status of each of the units concerned, it will be essentially appropriate to coordinate the efforts and full utilization of the means currently available to many units located in the same geographical area.

In the first phase, the basic principle governing application of this system will be used to create a coordinating organization to remain in effect long enough to deal with about 10 or 15 farms and whose job it will be to study the real needs of the production-unit group in order to propose solutions designed to rationalize utilization of the means of production. This system will also provide technical assistance and useful advice on obtaining more harmonious autonomous management of the farms involved.

With an eye to favoring cohesion of the activities of the various units, the coordinating organization will be composed of a highly skilled expert accompanied by a certain number of mid-level technicians who will collaborate with a committee composed of the leaders of the various production units (heads of self-managed properties, cooperatives and possibly private properties) to discuss questions of common interest.

According to the farm governorate director, this organization must in no event become an administrative fifth wheel. Its role is above all one of a technical nature and the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Revolution will see to it that it remains a light, mobile organization whose activity should be oriented toward support of production units. It will have no power to impose its viewpoints and its role will be to facilitate the search for a consensus among the various unit leaders. There is therefore nothing that could threaten the autonomy of these farms which will retain the same leadership and management organizations they now have, their own bookkeeping and their special connections with the bank, the CAPCS [expansion unknown], the SAF [Farmers Welfare Association], etc.

In the final event, the conclusions reached at the end of the first year of experimentation could logically determine the impact this effort of coordination could have on the farms in question as much in terms of quality of production as efficiency of the new labor organization.

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EDITORIAL CALLS FOR ACTION IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 4 May 78 p 3

[Editorial by Hamid Aberkane: "Agricultural Production: Immediate Problems to Be Solved"]

[Text] Is the demographic variable enough to justify the limits of national farm production? Each year the government has to think about feeding 500,000 new mouths. Without a doubt this does not fail to raise serious problems in satisfying needs for stable consumption of production. This situation tends to recur every year, assuming ever greater proportions. The question we must ask of ourselves is then: What steps should be taken--short of birth control -- to see to it that production reaches a point where it assures satisfaction of our farm product needs?

Without being the only one, however, the demographic implication is not enough of a reason since many other countries have the same rate of population growth without its posing serious problems for agriculture. The primary reason is an immediate one. We must look for it in the situation the agrarian production sector is in. We must be able to inventory all the problems, as complex as they are varied, which are at the same time technical, administrative, human and certainly also political. Many agrarian revolution cooperatives, self-managed properties and even more so the private sector are familiar with these chain-reaction problems which ultimately get the better of the farm organization and burst the bonds that tie the peasant to his land. Hence sometimes a partial or total flight of farm labor to the industrial centers where wages are anyhow better than in agriculture, the work less taxing -- this is relative -- and, of even greater advantage, there is a feeling of job stability and the fringe benefit of social privileges.

The Industrial Surrounding

There is no reason to deny that such behavior has become very frequent since the inauguration of the First National Development Plan. Enormous government investments in different kinds

of industries have not immediately favored agriculture, which before the start of the agrarian revolution was for the most part rather archaic and operated under primitive conditions. In the long run, it is different. Agriculture, which has suffered too much from this "industrial" surrounding, can profit from all the blessings of the industrialization on which it will depend for its mechanization and modernization.

Practically speaking, no agrarian revolution cooperative retains all of its original labor force. The shortage is sometimes as high as 50 percent and even more in those regions near the big urban centers (Algiers, Oran, Annaba) or the big industrial complexes surrounding Skikda, Arzew or El Hadjar. The phenomenon per se can be viewed objectively but it gets to be difficult to comprehend when it comes to the case of many other farm workers at the present time when the specter of industrialization is not so formidable. We can cite the case of the vast Beni Slimane Plain where for all industry there is the Berrouaghia complex. However, there too the farm-labor shortage is cause for concern.

Consequently, according to agricultural specialists, the problem lies in the reorganization and turning to account of the land. We can basically also understand turning to account as valorization of the agrarian function, which should not remain the "poor relative" of the employment sector. The recent government decision to raise farm wages (the announcement was made by the president of the republic at the UNPA [expansion unknown] Congress) is a first step designed precisely to encourage farmers who do the hard work of tilling the soil.

Low wages have up to now had harmful effects on the very volume of farm production which has gone into a slump.

The reasons for this drop are many. Production is not motivated by a planting program which in principle ought to orient it and restore its equilibrium. The peasants, in particular the small farmers who account for 60 percent of vegetable production, produce anarchically without regard for the needs of the market where this basic contradiction becomes apparent: the abundance of certain products of secondary importance (broad beans, for example, which had to be dumped in large amounts) and the rarity of strategically stabilized products (potatoes or "expensive" tomatoes). The small farmers are first and foremost interested in profitable (green peppers sometimes cost 35 dinars a kilogram) and less perishable products. The production imbalance persists because of several other objective constraints and is rather obvious to the point of giving rise

to distressing situations in the vegetable market such as speculation or detestable consumer practices such as "bulk buying" called "panic buying."

Government intervention in this sector must lead to containment to keep it from falling "prey" to the market brokers, to containment and assistance in resolving delicate problems of organization and supply, etc. At least the UNPA's role will be strengthened through a very broad sociopolitical base insofar as the small farmers constitute a sizable portion of our farm workers. An atmosphere of confidence and cooperation and organization of the private sector are first-order objectives in the program pursued by the UNPA which during its congress took stock of the immediate problems typical of the rural world as a whole.

By organization we must understand a three-pronged program which will affect the whole farm sector and not just a part of it. First we must correct the production situation and strike a balance in terms of the essential needs of the population, then see to the pervasion of the achievements of the agrarian revolution and guarantee its strict and rigorous application and lastly integrate the private sector and subject it to the demands of national production.

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ALGERIA

CHINESE EXPERTS PROVIDE FARM-METHOD COOPERATION

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 9 May 78 p 3

[Article: "Farm Products Cited"]

[Text] Algiers (APS)--Mr Tayebi Larbi, member of the Revolutionary Council and minister of agriculture and agrarian revolution, yesterday afternoon received Mr Chou Po Ping, ambassador of the People's Republic of China who came to make his farewells, in his ministry office.

During the meeting Messrs Tayebi Larbi and Chou Po Ping cited Algerian-Chinese cooperation in various fields, particularly agriculture. Such cooperation has rapidly developed following Mr Larbi's visit to the People's Republic of China in May 1974.

Since then, various projects dealing with the development of soybean cultivation, silk production and fish breeding have taken shape.

The soybean cultivation project, carried out with the cooperation of Chinese experts, consists of experimenting with this crop and following its development. The project, which was to have been completed by the end of 1976, was extended by joint agreement until the end of 1979.

China is cooperating with Algeria elsewhere in the planned installation of a rice mill at Skikda with a processing capacity of 30,000 quintals a year.

The site for the mill has been chosen and the equipment needed to build it is already there.

Concerning popularization of farm methods, a project for the construction of a center for that purpose at Guelma is being planned. Staffed by Chinese experts, it will provide for diffusion of farming techniques, particularly with regard to grains.

Dealing with the development of silkworm and fish breeding, the agreements concluded between the two countries for that purpose provide for the construction of a center for breeding silkworms as well as for training young Algerians in the techniques of reproduction of carp fry.

ALGERIA

BRIEFS

NEW SWISS AMBASSADOR--Algiers (APS)--The Government of the Algerian Democratic and People's Republic has consented to the appointment of His Excellency, Mr Ernest Andres, as ambassador of the Swiss Confederation in Algeria, according to an announcement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [Text] [Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 9 May 78 p 3] 11466

RICE SHIPMENT FOR NIGER--Algiers (APS)--Six thousand bags of rice totaling 3,000 quintals sent from Europe and destined for the Niger Office of Food Products (OPVN) were unloaded yesterday morning in the port of Algiers, directly by polan [unidentified term], from the boat onto National Road Transport Company (SNTR) trucks. The company's special "Sahara" "mammoths," which make up the convoy, were to transport the shipment in the hours following its arrival, yesterday or today, taking the "African Unity" road. They are expected in Agades (Niger), 2,900 km distant, in a week. The drought which is this year still ravaging several regions in the African Sahel creates a problem for the transporting of foodstuffs to areas without a coastline whose sole means of continental and intercontinental communication is by land or air. [Text] [Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 9 May 78 p 3] 11466

CSO: 4400

EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL GIVES OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF MIDEAST SITUATION

Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 6 Mar 78 pp 6-8

[Article by Mahmud Dihni: "An Interview With Egyptian Delegate Dr 'Usamah al-Baz; By Being Vigilant and Patient, Egypt Will Achieve Its Goals"]

[Text] More than 2 months have elapsed since the Egyptian initiative undertaken by President Sadat through his historic visit to Jerusalem. Since then, the Middle East has witnessed numerous other developments, beginning with the preparatory Cairo conference, the meeting of the political and military councils and the Ismailia talks with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin. Then came the Aswan talks with President Carter, the Washington talks, and finally, the Alfred Atherton tour of Mideast capitals.

How does the situation appear now? Where does the Middle East problem, or the Arab-Israeli struggle, stand?

Dr 'Usamah al-Baz, first undersecretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and director of the office of the vice president of the republic for political affairs, says: "The Egyptian peace initiative has brought about radical changes in the situation. I see it as a guarantee that our national goals will be realized at the appropriate time."

"The first of these changes is that Israel is now, for the first time since its establishment, faced with the challenge of peace. This challenge imposes upon it a difficult choice, one it did not face while at war or in a no war, no peace situation. Israel always used to hide behind Arab rejection. For 30 years it has not been compelled to state just what the borders it wants are, nor to claim them for itself in its confrontation with its Arab neighbors.

"Now, it is being asked by public opinion everywhere to state its demands precisely and definitely. When confronted by Egypt, Israel was forced to reveal its expansionist aspirations, even aspirations such as these. This applies equally to the rest of the fronts."

Its Expansionist Aspirations

Dr 'Usamah al-Baz went on to say:

"In the past, Israel used to talk about secure borders without being forced to disclose these borders. Many people in the world were under the illusion that Israel had no expansionist aspirations, and that these were an Arab invention, the result of a mentality that believes that all events come about as a result of a plot, and not the result of definite, objective interactions.

"This was one of the reasons for a lack of support for the Arab cause on the international level. Now, the picture has changed. When Israel was forced to reveal its expansionist aspirations under the pretext of preserving Israeli settlements, this Israeli position was met with collective resistance on the parts of the nations of the world, both by the people and by their governments, because it revealed an obvious expansionist intent.

"We found the United States, for the first time, taking a firm stand with regard to the settlements. Just putting this opposition on record was not enough. A recent survey of American public opinion conducted by the Associated Press and one of the television networks revealed that 62 percent of the American people believe that their country has to avoid favoritism towards either party in the Arab-Israeli dispute. That alone is a radical change. Along with that, the conference of foreign ministers of European countries that sat in Copenhagen last 15 February adopted a resolution condemning these settlements and demanding their removal."

The Situation in Israel

Dr 'Usamah al-Baz added:

"Elsewhere, a new element came into being. Many elements within Israel itself began to believe that this was a golden opportunity to make their dreams of peace come true and put an end to war, hardships, human and material sacrifices and the concomitant psychological atmosphere. It appeared that the governing organization in Israel was at odds with Israeli public opinion regarding this issue. The leaders wanted expansion and were unable to get out of promises that they themselves had made to adopt a firm stand. Still, public opinion in Israel undoubtedly carried a great deal of weight with regard to this matter. In this respect, any other country in the same situation would be an element of pressure upon the government.

"The situation now, in short, is that both sides are resolved that they want peace and both are striving for it. However, each side is waiting for the other side to give in. We believe that we are in a relatively strong position in confronting the Israeli government, because it has not yet responded to the Egyptian initiative with the same impact or at the same level.

"Israel's leaders must be convinced that they cannot impose peace based on their conditions. In this, they do not have any international support, and their position within Israel itself is subject to criticism. This does not mean that a majority of Israeli public opinion is against Menahem Begin. It means that if Begin continues this stubborn stand, opposition to him will gradually grow."

Who Will Win?

"The struggle now is a test of the will of each side. All objective indicators point out that we will win this struggle. We only have to be confident, proceed calmly and be patient. This does not mean that we are asking for several years of patience, but several months. If matters had gone on in the same manner in which they used to proceed, we would still be arguing about the agenda of the Geneva Conference and measures pertaining to its convocation. Now, however, we have in a few weeks turned the struggle around. We are now demanding that Israel adopt a moderate stand with regard to the two most important aspects of the problem: the problem of the Palestinian people, and withdrawal from all Arab lands.

"We shall have to be patient for just a few months until we are able to see aspects of a comprehensive settlement and the bases upon which a settlement must be built. Then, negotiations can begin concerning the application of these bases to the various fronts."

Begin's Stand

In reply to my question about the position of Menahem Begin and what made him [Dr al-Baz] optimistic, Dr 'Usamah said:

"We are not optimistic because of Begin's position, but rather because of our position and our ability to set matters in motion so as to ensure the realization of our goals. Begin's current situation is one in which he has no international support. The support that he gets from Jewish communities in the world is very weak and is continually being eaten away. The reason for this is that before the initiative, Israel said that everything was negotiable. Now, Begin has been forced to reveal a clear contradiction in his stand when the address that he sent President Sadat said that everything was negotiable except the Palestinian existence and withdrawal to the borders of 4 June 1967.

"The world, with us, asks, if these two things are not negotiable, then what shall we negotiate? The mere issuance of these statements sheds doubt about the earnestness of Israeli negotiation. One of the bases of the art of negotiation is that the party that takes this stand loses one of the principles of negotiation--the principle of good intention. Then, too, the Israeli government has only in recent months brought up the subject of the settlements. Earlier, it dealt with the subject only rarely."

A Fleecing

"Many observers and officials outside the area believe that Israel's bringing up of the subject of the settlements in this manner is rather like a "fleecing demand." This is a well-known practice in the art of negotiation. It means that the negotiating party clings to something of no very great importance, but which causes great distress to the other side. The aim of all this is to change the view of the other party regarding this subject and make it give up its stand in another area. If this is the case, it is built on erroneous calculations. This is not the first time that Israeli estimations have been in error. Israel was still reckoning that the Arabs would never defeat it, even partially, because it is militarily inviolable. However, this delusion turned to smoke during a few days in October 1973.

"There is a certain element within Israel that says that Menahem Begin, because of his makeup, his past, the stands that he maintains, his ideological makeup and his constant mistaking of slander for fact, cannot be the man to make peace with the Arabs."

Self-Determination

"In our policy, we do not base our considerations on the replies of an individual appointed to us. We base them on interaction between objective elements in the situation. There are indications that in the next few weeks Israel will be forced to change its stand and grant the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. Even if it persists in having this accompanied by guarantees of security, then, likewise, it must consent to withdrawal from occupied Arab lands. By this Israel would announce for the first time since its establishment its abandonment of the expansionist dreams and aspirations that have tempted the imaginations of pioneers of the Zionist movement since the last quarter of the 19th century. These persisted until a new mentality was formed within a large sector of Israeli society itself."

In reply to a question about statements delivered by Israeli Foreign Minister Dayan in the Knesset referring to Egypt's unrelenting stand brought about by increasing pressure on it and a sense of isolation, Dr 'Usamah al-Baz said:

"These statements, if it is true that they were made by Dayan, are untrue, and indicative of the lack of understanding on the part of the Israelis of the facts of the situation and of their stumbling over pretexts that they employ to face the difficult situation surrounding Israel internationally. As for Egypt's being unrelenting, it has not adopted a new stand and cannot be described as either unrelenting or vacillating. Egypt adheres to the same stand that President Anwar Sadat adopted at the Ismailia talks last 25 December.

"The president recently stated that Egypt is ready to come to a mutual understanding within the framework of giving up neither land nor sovereignty. This stand cannot be described as inexorable because no country in the society that followed the Second World War can be asked to give up its land or its sovereignty."

No Pressures

"With regard to Dayan's statement that Egypt is faced with increasing pressures or that it feels isolated, this is groundless talk. In the Arab domain we find that the rejection bloc failed to attract any support outside its own sphere. Many neutral observers have mentioned that the people in certain rejection countries are supporting the Egyptian political line on the basis that it is the one true line that can result in changes in the situation to benefit the Arabs themselves. Outside the Arab circle we find that the African and non-aligned countries support without argument Egypt's adhering to the necessity of Israel's withdrawal from occupied Arab lands and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The Western world that used to back Israel in varying degrees is now starting to adopt the Egyptian position without reservation. This was proved by the talks that the president had in the seven European nations that he recently visited. An important official in a major European nation told him: 'A fair man, whether sympathetic to Israel or not, cannot ask you to take any other step. It is up to the other party to act.'"

Dr 'Usamah al-Baz concluded his interview by saying:

"Egypt's opposition to criticism or attacks by certain forces inside or outside the Arab homeland does not mean that it is isolated. It is the nature of any revolutionary action to come across strong opposition. In addition to this, some of these powers are continuing to oppose Egypt--right or wrong. Thus, we give no weight to opposition that comes between us and movement forward.

"On the contrary, it is Israel itself that finds itself isolated because it cannot find a single country to accept its stand. It has begun to be confronted with an increasingly strong opposition. This is a new phenomenon inside Jewish communities abroad, and this is isolation."

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EGYPT

PROFESSOR, EDITOR DEBATE FREEDOMS

Need for True Democracy

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 23 Apr 78 p 5

[Article by Ahmad Abu al-Fath with introduction by Musa Sabri: "The Way to Deliverance"]

[Text] Why Have We Published? . . . And Why Do We Answer?

Today we are publishing an article by Prof Ahmad Abu al-Fath, and my answer to it. I was compelled to make this reply today because Prof Abu al-Fath focuses on one theme in all his articles and repeats it in every line. This theme aims at returning everything to the state of affairs that existed before the revolution of 23 July, which he does not recognize. Since AL-AKHBAR has published dozens of articles by Prof Abu al-Fath based on this theme, it seemed to me that it was my responsibility today to undertake a reply, so that I might throw light on the radical and fundamental difference between us and him. Although this page, "The People's Opinion," publishes the other point of view on the right or on the left, at the same time we are committed to protecting the fundamental principles of the new Egyptian society after the 23 July revolution -- and the first of these is that we can never turn back. Although the country is facing today an economic crisis which has its influence on the daily life of individuals, this matter has no connection with what Prof Abu al-Fath deals with in his article, nor is there a solution to it in returning to the past, as he claims; the lines will not be a way to save the effort of the masses under the auspices of freedom and democracy. This period through which we are going

requires of all of us that we share in the responsibility, that we remedy the true causes of what we work on, and that we devise practical solutions for the good of the masses. Finally, when any error or deviation appears, we must reveal it with honesty, good faith, and a sense of responsibility. Musa Sabri

Dr al-Qaysuni says as follows: "I still have faith, and I shall continue to have faith until the last moment of my life, in the power and capability of the Egyptian economy, and in our ability to raise the standard of living of our glorious people through increased effort, work, and organization to a level far superior to the one on which we exist at present."

Wherever we look -- "at agriculture, industry, petroleum, mining, the Canal, tourism, Egyptians abroad, foreign investments, the public sector, and so on" -- we find vast and continuous capabilities that can provide us, God willing, with tremendous additional income.

Egypt Is Not Poor

I have written dozens of times that Egypt is not poor, and -- praise be to God -- Dr al-Qaysuni, who is chairman of the Economic Group, confirms what I have written.

Egypt is not poor, and it is certain that if we improved the utilization of our resources and if we established the bases by which better means of utilization can be achieved, Egypt could relieve the distressed state into which it has fallen during the past 5 years, and could subsequently enter into a period of continuous prosperity and progress.

This is not something that I am alone in saying, nor do I say it out of a desire to deceive the people with false hopes. Many world experts have written about this, and many nations have fallen into worse conditions than we are experiencing and, through establishing firm and proper bases, have been able to motivate their peoples toward an escape from decline into progress and prosperity.

Egypt truly is not poor, despite all the difficulties, the debts, the oppressive burdens that have been placed upon its treasury, and the severe conditions through which the people are now living.

Why, Then?

The natural question is:

If Egypt is not poor, and if it possesses all the capabilities, why, then, are these capabilities not utilized, and why do the crises become increasingly grave?

The answer to the question is:

The firm bases that would permit an initiative toward the utilization of all Egypt's capabilities have not yet been achieved, and this is the reason for the lack of such an initiative, as well as for the increasing gravity of the crises.

The next question is:

What are the bases, and why have they not been achieved?

The bases are that our system be provided with all the foundations of democracy, including the freedom to form political parties, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, and freedom of expression. Once this is done, elections should be held so the people can choose the party in whose power of reform they have trust.

These bases are not provided, because when it was decided to form a committee taking the name the "Committee for Egypt's Political Future," whose chairman is Eng Sayyid Mar'i, who was the chairman of a parliament whose members are all from the Socialist Union, and who before that was secretary general of the Central Committee of the Socialist Union, while the committee itself, which was said to be studying Egypt's political future, was composed of members all of who were in the Socialist Union -- when such a committee was set up, it was clear that the sound bases for democracy were not provided.

Democracy was not provided when the committee decided to limit the structures involved in elections to three platforms, without allowing the formation of popular political parties, thereafter allowing whoever wished to enter the elections under the wing of one of the various platforms of the Socialist Union, providing that he entered independently. This by its nature is a complete violation of the known principles of democracy.

Here There May Be a Malady

The malady in what we are concerned with here is the natural result of a decision of that committee which was named the "Committee for the Future of Political Action."

Why?

That we may understand the causes, it is necessary for us to take a quick look at the history of President al-Sadat's rule.

When al-Sadat came to power, and up until 1974, he achieved a series of rapid victories.

These victories were rapid, as I have said, they were linked with each other, and, what is more, they were victories on a large scale. I shall review some of them quickly.

- (1) The revolution of 15 May and the personal and legal guarantees and freedoms on a wide scale that it achieved.
- (2) The termination of Russian control over the army.
- (3) The termination of Russian military regulations.
- (4) The war and victory.
- (5) Egypt's being opened up to the rest of the world politically, and other states' acceptance of aiding Egypt.
- (6) Elimination of press censorship.
- (7) Public announcement of the policy of openness.

These are some of the widespread, interrelated victories which, with unusual rapidity, al-Sadat achieved.

These victories could have been utilized beneficially to improve Egypt and achieve reforms that would reach the people day after day -- if popular governments were formed in the country.

That Was Not Achieved

Such a state of affairs was not achieved.

The governments did not properly utilize the wish of the nations of the world to aid Egypt -- a wish that appeared on a vast scale as a result of the astonishment felt in response to al-Sadat's policy of opening up the country to the rest of the world.

The governments did not apply the policy of openness in terms of clear principles in such a way that there was an aim to attract capital, facilitate establishment of projects, and establish equality among those undertaking projects related to the open policy.

The result was that a small group possessing influence profited from the open policy projects. The result was also that the open policy took an unhealthy direction toward increased consumption instead of increased investment. This led to obstacles which were exploited by the enemies of the open economic policy to find fault with it and try to convince the people that it was a mistaken policy.

The fact is that the people cannot distinguish precisely between the open policy and the manner in which this policy has been applied. They see it and judge it on the basis of the results, and the results are dependent on the mistaken application of the policy -- but the people do not study the matter deeply.

The people welcomed the public announcement of the open policy. It was the duty of the government to facilitate the application of the right principles. The result was what happened to Egypt.

The public announcement of the open policy was not a mistake. The mistake came in the application of the policy. This is a governmental responsibility, and the people see the results without searching for the reasons.

Moreover. . .

Instead of moving toward rapid reform, we find the government busying itself with the issuance of laws.

All these laws are reactionary and all of them demonstrate unmistakably that efforts are being made to deprive the people of their rights.

The political parties law.

The draft high constitutional court law.

The draft press law.

All these are reactionary efforts. More than that, they obviously aim at halting honest and firm progress toward democracy.

Still more, the government has not tried to beat down corruption. On the contrary, the situation has reached the stage where no man can complete a transaction without paying a price. The effects of this are reflected in the people. They cease to believe in integrity or in the idea that the government is acting in their service.

More than that, all the outward signs of luxury continue to exist, which makes the people ask:

Why does the government ask us to pay taxes?

Utilities maintenance has broken down, and they have been so disrupted as to get on the nerves of the people on a daily basis.

Prices have gone up, and continue to go up despite all efforts, because it is not a matter of inspecting merchants or stopping profiteering with the people's food, but of having a clear and firmly established economic policy -- and no such policy exists.

More than this, instead of the government's heading toward sincere reform that moves forward and attacks according to a firmly established and clear policy, they have resorted to publishing advertisements in the press concerning what they intend to do. The people do not want to see intentions,

they want to see sincere reform, one of the rules of which is that the government not spend money on announcements of its intentions or on propaganda for the cabinet ministers, but on what will do good for the people.

Freedom and Reform

The people today enjoy personal freedom. They speak without fear of beatings or spy reports, and this personal freedom is protected by President al-Sadat, who affirms his adherence to it on every occasion.

Since the people can talk freely about their conditions, they are continually discussing their hardships. No one can blame them for that, because it is one of their rights, and the crises surrounding them on all sides some talk about, some write about, and some complain to the press about.

Complaint about life's hardships and inconveniences cannot be stopped except by reform that treats their causes. Until such reform is present, it is imperceptible and the people do not notice it.

Complaint makes no distinctions as to responsibility, but applies generally to every responsible person.

This general and widespread complaint which occurs among all classes of the people finds those who exploit it, either by feeding its causes or by spreading rumors which increase its magnitude, and this does not allow of control by laws -- only by reform.

Fear for Freedom

Allowing matters to remain in this state gives arms to the enemies of freedom and the enemies of the victories achieved during the first 4 years of al-Sadat's regime, and gives arms to the causes of doubt in many matters, among them:

- (1) The usefulness of achieving friendly, strong relations with various nations of the world.
- (2) The usefulness of the policy of openness.
- (3) The usefulness of freedom.

Fear of the success of the enemies of freedom will increase whenever the means of true reform are held back.

The enemies of freedom carry out their activity, finding nourishment in the daily hardships of the people, which feed this activity and aid in the spread of propaganda.

I Have Said and I Am Saying

I have said dozens of times, and I am saying today again, that the only way to achieve the rebirth of Egypt is through making available all the bases of democracy.

These bases must be made available, and either the people will put them into practice, believe in them, and harvest their fruits during the time of President al-Sadat, or else the future of democracy is not guaranteed.

Egypt must avoid the dangers of returning to individual rule. If the Committee for Egypt's Political Future had not been formed, and the democratic freedoms had been made available before the elections, the people would be enjoying their fruits today and the people's faith in democracy would be firmly established.

If democracy in its true sense had been established before the elections, al-Sadat would not be bearing the burden of the government's not having carried out the reforms that should have been achieved, and Egypt would be moving along the natural course toward an escape from its crises.

If democracy had been achieved in the political parties and the press, it would have been possible to stop much of the exploitation, possible to achieve the open policy, possible to stop the loss of money, possible for al-Sadat's government to move on to achieve victory after victory and, more important than all this, it would have been possible that the enemies of democracy would not have found the passageways from which they come out to create doubts about everything.

This is the truth.

If I have erred, let him who wishes set me right.

This is the truth, and there is no value today in hiding it.

It is our duty to face facts and to set about correcting the situation. Egypt is not poor. In spite of all it is going through, Egypt can escape from its distress.

There is no path to deliverance but total freedom and true democracy.

Deliverance for Egypt from backwardness and crises and the phantom of democracy.

Response to Professor

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 23 Apr 78 p 6

[Article by Musa Sabri: "This Is Not the Way"]

[Text] The ideas that Prof Ahmad Abu al-Fath repeats in this article are the same ideas that he has repeated previously in his many articles in

AL-AKHBAR, and they are the same ideas that he has published in his new book, "The Challenge," which is now on sale.

He imagines that there is no solution to any problem in Egypt unless a fifth or sixth or tenth political party is established, and unless the press comes under private ownership.

If new political parties were established, above and beyond the four parties existing now, in the opinion of Prof Abu al-Fath, the economic crisis would be driven away. Thus in the twinkling of an eye prices will go down, services will be as good as they ought to be, and everything in this country will be bright and shining.

I don't know why we didn't live in this promised paradise before the revolution of 23 July.

Memories From Heaven

Political parties were permitted in the same manner as is desired by Prof Ahmad Abu al-Fath, and yet Egypt existed in the most unpleasant social condition, feudalism. The majority party of that time undertook to limit agricultural ownership, and was rejected unanimously. The majority party undertook to set a minimum wage, and the party government distributed the state lands in Maryut among individuals and children of the ruling family, land that could have been set aside for the poor.

Political parties were permitted in the same manner as is desired by Prof Ahmad Abu al-Fath, and these parties turned into the playthings of the king at one time, and of the British colonialists at another. The British ambassador was the lord who ruled this country.

Political parties were permitted in the same manner as is desired by Prof Ahmad Abu al-Fath, and millionaires could change ministries at will. Indeed, they could buy and sell them.

Political parties were permitted in the same manner as is desired by Prof Ahmad Abu al-Fath, and the king's spending reached its peak, his wantonness became a black mark on the honor of all the people, and his feudal holdings reached outrageous proportions. His dealings on the stock exchange and his purchases of defective weaponry led to legal investigations and reports which the government helped the majority party to efface, hiding the evidence against the king.

Nevertheless, we are not opposed to the formation of political parties on a sound ideological basis. We have gone through a transitional period which is unique in kind in history. We have made a transition from a dictatorial regime to a democratic regime, from a dictatorial regime that lasted over twenty years and was firmly established with strongholds

distributed throughout the country, everywhere. Naturally all this could not be changed with a single stroke of the pen. This is a fantasy that could destroy everything. We have made a transition from the philosophy of a single party to the notion of platforms that express every orientation, paving the way for the establishment of political parties. After the free elections, the parties did not discredit anyone, and our political life before the 23 July revolution had not witnessed elections that were so free and so unblemished. And yet Prof Ahmad Abu al-Fath describes them as "undemocratic."

What happened, then?

Why does Prof Ahmad Abu al-Fath bind up his mind and thought in a single chain from which he cannot escape to the fresh air of the new developments we are experiencing?

Yes, the Socialist Union exists in a transitional stage now, until the transition to democracy is completed in a way that protects the principles upon which the Egyptian system is based, which are the principles of political democracy with social democracy on a single foundation. What is wrong in that? What are the obstacles in the way of reform and rectification? Or in the way of facing our internal problems, whose fundamental source is the economic crisis? The causes of the economic crisis are not concealed from anybody. If any error in the government's policy can be found, the Council of the People will carry out its legal and constitutional mission of acting as an overseer, and will do so in complete freedom. No one can protest that the opposition today enjoys all its freedoms as an overseer on the widest possible scale. The opposition has come to possess newspapers that express its views independent of any restriction or of the least censorship. I do not know what Prof Ahmad Abu al-Fath wants.

It Was Not Evil

The 23 July revolution was not all evil, sir.

It was the 23 July revolution that put an end to ownership; it was the 23 July revolution that put an end to feudalism, that freed the Egyptian laborer from alienation from capital, that nationalized the Suez Canal, that completed the pact for the evacuation of the British colonialists, that changed the map of this society, that causes Egyptians and Arabs to burst with feelings of pride and with confidence that they could challenge the forces of colonialism everywhere.

These are facts that cannot be denied about the 23 July revolution.

These are facts that the errors and transgressions of the 23 July revolution cannot bury in the grave of political freedom -- this is what was achieved by the 15 May revolution espoused by Prof Ahmad Abu al-Fath.

Everything that you talk about in relation to the open economic policy or to poor application of the policy, or the failure to improve services, are all matters discussed by the public in complete freedom, in the national papers and in the party journals and under the People's Council dome. You, sir, have written on these matters in dozens of articles, and you repeat the same theme in everything you write.

Is This the Denial of Democracy?

Then -- what is the story?

You talk about the high constitutional court law.

What happened with this law? The minister of justice presented it. The writers criticized it. The parties criticized it. All the legal bodies debated it. The lawyers' union debated it. No one was prevented from having complete freedom of expression concerning this law.

Is this a democracy that has been denied?

If there were a fifth party or a tenth party, how would the situation change? How would there be more than this complete freedom of debate, criticism, denial?

You talk about the press law.

What happened with this law? The writers took up their pens to debate it. It was exposed to the journalists for debate. The government decided to withdraw it from this parliamentary circulation so that it could be debated by the journalists' union and the press organizations, so that an expression of the will of the majority could be issued in complete freedom of the press.

Is this a democracy that has been denied?

If there were 20 political parties, how would the situation change? How would there be more than this complete freedom of debate, criticism, denial?

The Power of Capital

You, sir, suffer from one thing -- a press owned by the people!

That is the truth.

You want to return the press to private ownership. You want to return the Egyptian press to the ownership of Prof Ahmad Abu al-Fath. If the press which is now owned by the people -- if AL-MISRI -- were turned over to Prof Ahmad Abu al-Fath, all the problems would be solved, total democracy would come to Egypt, and it would not be possible to have things worse than they have been.

This is the major point of difference.

I can tell you with complete faith in what I am saying that private ownership of the press is not democracy. That the capitalist owner should govern all that is written and published is a limitation on freedom, because it will be the owner who will have the last word on every opinion that is -- or is not -- published. Here, it is the interests of the capitalist that rule and keep a watchful eye on everything. Is this democracy?

You are defending the freedom of only one person.

We are defending the freedom of a people, who now have the primary right over their press.

You know, sir, the interests that are defended by the individually owned press in Europe.

You know the story of the capitalist who bought certain French newspapers and dismissed the editors whose orientation he did not approve of, paid them off, and appointed whomever he wanted, with the power of capital.

You know the Zionist influence that controls the newspaper money and the information media in America.

You know a lot about the press in the capitalist states. We don't want to go through that experience again. The field is open to all the political parties in Egypt now in fact, without the least censorship on what is written in the press, and in a way that has reached limits of agitation and casting doubt which are far indeed from the goals of true democracy.

Nevertheless, sir, Egyptian democracy after 15 May granted you the ability to resort to legal means in demanding your legal rights as regards the newspaper AL-MISRI.

You know, sir, that we differ completely from you in our views about everything that existed before the 23 July revolution.

You know, sir, that we differ completely from you in our views about the 23 July revolution. We support the new structure that was set up for Egyptian society, and we were opposed to all its faults and transgressions which had their basis in individual rule. But you absolutely fail to recognize a historical stage in the government of Egypt which cannot be denied or disclaimed or written off by means of newspaper articles.

You, sir concentrate in everything that you write on the restoration of political parties, without any organizational conditions to guarantee the safety of the democratic process. You concentrate on restoring the press to individual ownership to build new centers of power represented by the capitalist owners.

You imagine that Egypt will be reborn overnight if ten more political parties are added to the present list, or if the press is turned over to capitalist ownership. Without this, there is no democracy. You express no other ideas besides these in all your articles. Nevertheless, we would not restrict your right to publish, so long as what you publish is not in conflict with the national interest as we evaluate that interest with complete honesty and a deep sense of serious responsibility -- for the sake of the interests which come first, which are the interests of the people. Still, the field is open for you to express your opinion as you desire in the party press and public meetings.

Where Is Censorship?

You have published a new book this week, sir. Was a single line of this book vetoed by governmental authority? Was the hand of the censor applied in any way to your book?

Didn't you write what you wanted to?

Isn't the Egyptian library inundated by dozens, hundreds of new books that have not been subjected to censorship?

Why do you deny the truth when the light is so plain?

Why do you state to the people that the shortcomings that we face now in the economic crisis, as well as the poor services that are its consequence, have only two causes -- the lack of a fifth or tenth political party and the failure to allow individual ownership of newspapers?

Why don't we remedy the real causes as we progress? Why don't we all lend a hand and cooperate responsibly and constructively?

You know, sir, that my pen is not hired to ward off wrong or defend the cabinet. We are not the mouthpiece of the government. If we were, we would become the mouthpiece of every government. Ministries change, but we in the newspapers owned by the people express commitment to the fundamental principles of this society. The first of these is that we can never turn back. No one is protected from honest criticism. No one has any power but the power of law. There is no shelter for the wrongdoer, regardless of what his position is, if there is evidence against him.

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PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY APPROVES COMMERCE DRAFT LAW

Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 23 May 78 p 3

THE people's Assembly economic Committee approved the draft law on Chambers of Commerce and their General Federation. The Committee also approved 7 articles of the draft law.

The Chambers of Commerce draft law was discussed at a meeting of the Committee held yesterday under the chairmanship of Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim Dakruy.

Commodities distributing committee will be formed in consultation with the Ministries of Local Government and Supply according to the Committee's decision.

The Committee approved to set up a Chamber of Commerce in every Governorate representing the economic interests of public, private and co-operative sectors.

Chambers of Commerce would prepare the necessary studies and researches serving the open door economic policy, supporting national economy, facilitating Arab and Foreign investment and the complete utilization of natural and human resources.

Studies

Studies regarding commercial affairs in Governorates, the support of local and foreign trade, methods and bodies of distribution, suitable means of transportation and the difficulties that affect distribution of articles would be prepared by the Committee too.

According to the draft law, Chambers of Commerce would also participate with authorities concerned in commodity pricing, determining percentage profit of drawing up timetables for seasonal sales and establishing regional markets and exhibitions and commercial institutes.

Those involved in commercial activities should be Egyptians, they should not be bankrupted or sentenced as dishonest. Employees fired from their posts due to dishonesty cannot share in commercial activities according to the draft law.

Foreigners

According to the law, foreigners would share in commercial activities after the approval of the Investment Authority, according to the law 43 for the year 1974.

Foreigners acting as partners in private sector firms should not own more than 49 per cent of the shares. The Egyptian partner only has the right to sign and be the director of the firm.

It is probable for foreign Companies abroad to practice commercial, financial or industrial tasks in Egypt after the approval of the Investment Authority, the law shows.

Meanwhile, the People's Assembly Economic Committee will meet again next Saturday to continue the discussion of the draft law. — QSS

CSO: 4820

PLAN TO REDISTRIBUTE POPULATION DISCUSSED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 23 Apr 78 p 1

[Article: "President al-Sadat Requests That National Program Be Prepared for Redistribution of Population; Government, Public and Private Sectors and Citizen Groups To Participate in Program Whose Implementation Will Begin This Year; Program Seeks to Set Up Development Bases, to Organize Emigration and to Award Ownership of Lands"]

[Text] President Anwar al-Sadat has requested that a national program be prepared to redistribute Egypt's population, that implementation of this program begin this year and that the government apparatus, the public and private sectors and all the citizen groups take part in this program with the aim of departing from the old valley which represents only 3.5 percent of Egypt's land and the aim of reducing the sharp overcrowding with the problems and pressures it creates for the resources and the few opportunities it offers.

The national population redistribution program also seeks to deal with the constant increase in the population which will amount to 65 million people in the year 2000 and to exploit the enormous potentials of the cultivable lands, the mineral wealth and the water resources.

The program provides incentives to guarantee the effectiveness of the redistribution. The incentives include the distribution of lands to the pioneers on easy terms, providing the pioneers' needs, organizing the emigration of the peasant families from the old valley to the new development areas, supplying them with the necessary production requirements and with all the services and utilities and setting up a chain of centers of civilization provided with all the requirements to make them bases from which to proceed to develop and exploit the new areas.

Reducing Current Pressures on Old Valley Resources

Al-Ghardaqah--Report by Muhammad 'Amir--President Anwar al-Sadat has reviewed a detailed study on the upward swing of the Egyptian population, on the constant population growth throughout the period till the year 2000

and on the pressures resulting from the current geographic distribution of the population density in the governorates of Lower Egypt and in the narrow strip of the Nile Valley in the governorates of Upper Egypt.

The president had discussed in detail the features of the national population redistribution program with Prime Minister Mamduh Salim and with the ministers who accompanied the president on his field trip to the governorates.

New Opportunities to Exploit Potentials of Cultivable Lands

AL-AHRAM correspondent has learned that the program which the president discussed seeks to achieve the following goals:

Exploit the big potentials of the cultivable lands, of the water resources and of the mineral wealth, especially in the New Valley and ancient valleys of Nubia to cultivate 3.5 million feddans in these areas in order to realize the food security strategy for the Egyptian people.

Plan the Egyptian people's population growth: studies indicate that this population will amount to about 65 million in the year 2000 and this planning does not want this population to exceed 56 million by that time, with provisions to absorb the following increases.

Redistribute the Egyptian population density which is concentrated in the old valley and direct this density toward the new areas and societies to achieve two goals: first, cultural and agricultural development of these areas and, second, exploit the mineral resources and crude materials in the Egyptian desert to attain higher economic growth rates.

It has been decided that the New Valley Development Company--a decision has been made to set up this holding company with a capital of 5 million pounds and 25 percent of its shares will be offered for subscription and the government will own the remaining 75 percent of the shares--will draw up the regulations for awarding the new lands for ownership by the generation of pioneers on easy terms and after the new lands are prepared for cultivation and supplied with irrigation and drainage projects. This company will also organize the emigration of willing peasant families from the ancient valley to the New Valley lands and will also provide them with care so that they may achieve stability.

This company will set up a chain of centers of civilization which will act as springboards toward developing the new lands. The center of civilization will offer services, information and technical and agricultural guidance and will provide the pioneers and the emigrating families with their needs of seeds, machinery and other materials. Every center will have service (forces) to convey services and requirements to the pioneers in their locations.

On the other hand, it has been decided that the Deserts Institute will prepare complete studies on the valleys, oases and plains of the New Valley

and the ancient Nubian valleys around the High Dam lake in the Egyptian-Sudanese integration zone and in Wadi al-'Arish in northern Sinai. The studies will determine the soil quality and the water resources in each of these areas and will examine the climatic conditions in them. The studies will be made available to the pioneers and to the emigrating families for guidance in settling the new areas. The studies will also be made available to the local companies and investors and to the workers who will set up agricultural projects in the areas.

It has also been decided to bolster the multi-purpose al-Sadat Cooperative Society which was set up by the people of the Nubia to develop the ancient Nubia area and to speed up construction of the three new villages of al-Sadat, al-Salam [peace] and al-'Ubud [the crossing] in the ancient Nubia, to reclaim 2,000 feddans around each village as a first step, to link the villages by roads and irrigation projects and to open the opportunity for the population of Nubia to rebuild the ancient Nubia.

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CSO: 4802

TOURISM CITED AS MAIN SOURCE OF HARD CURRENCY REVENUES

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 27 Apr 78 p 7

[Article by Afkar al-Kharadili: "Our Income From Tourism is 640 Million Dollars and Can Be Doubled in a Few Years Through Full Exploitation; Tourism First, Then Canal and Then Oil; Number of American Tourists Increased by 61 Percent and of Arab Tourists Dropped by 13 Percent"]

[Text] Our country acquired 640 million dollars from tourism last year and thus tourism became the primary source of hard currency in Egypt. The Suez Canal supplied us with 500 million dollars in hard currency whereas oil supplied us with 250 million dollars only.

Despite all this, it is certain that our country has not exploited all its tourist potentials and has not realized the revenues commensurate with these potentials.

What does the minister of tourism say?

How can our country realize bigger revenues from exploiting tourism, the industry that has not yet exploited all its potentials?

Engineer Muhib Istiinu, the minister of tourism and aviation, says: Even though the income realized from tourism in 1977 made tourism the main source of hard currency for our country when compared with the revenues from the Suez Canal and from oil, this still does not mean that we have realized all we want from tourism. The opportunity is open, of course, to realize the biggest investment in tourism and this is what we will witness in the coming years. However, the signs are good so far. A total of 1,003,000 persons entered Egypt in 1977 and estimates tell us that a single individual spends about 640 dollars in Egypt on an average stay of 6 nights in Egypt. This means that an increase in the number of tourists will open the door for increasing the country's hard currency revenues. But will the number of tourists actually increase?

The minister of tourism says: The 1978 statistics affirm that the number of tourists is not declining, despite the constant decline in the number of

Arab tourists. On the other hand, the number of American tourists increased by 61 percent last year and the number of European tourists by 31 percent and the revenues from tourism increased last January and February by 25 percent. For the first time in Egypt, the hotels were fully occupied in the months of March and April and the hotels of Aswan were in such demand that some tourists agreed to sleep on hotel couches there. The numbers of Arab tourists have declined by 13 percent in the first few months of 1978. However, there is a certain fact, namely that the tourist who offers the country hard currency and who actually spends money during his stay is the American and European tourist. The Arab tourist, and this is a well known fact, spends Egyptian pounds in Egypt and this doesn't give the country the full advantage of tourism as a source of foreign currency. This means that the potentials for increasing our country's hard currency revenues are linked to increasing the number of American, European and other tourists. This is what is being realized currently.

But encouraging tourism is linked to exploiting all our tourism potentials that have not been exploited yet. What have we prepared to fully exploit these potentials?

The minister of tourism says: We have concluded a contract with Norway to build for us four boats which will go into operation before the end of this year and which will cost 30 million dollars. Each boat includes 90 cabins and can accommodate 180 persons. The boats will operate between Luxor and Cairo. At the same time, the ministry has licensed 19 more private sector boats to operate as floating hotels between Cairo, Luxor and Aswan. Five or six more boats of the same type will be received next year and the Nile will thus abound with this needed type of tourist services.

On the other hand, work continues in order to increase the capacity and number of hotels and to exploit the enormous tourist potentials in the Red Sea. The main attraction areas in our country are: first, the ancient sites, then the valley between Cairo and Luxor and then the Red Sea which enjoys numerous characteristics that distinguish it from many of the tourist areas in the world.

With the raised level of the services and with the continuing implementation of the tourism plan, the opportunities to exploit the tourist industry are increasing and so are the chances of realizing a bigger revenue from tourism as a primary and fundamental source of hard currency.

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CSO: 4802

MARSAH MATRUH INAUGURATED AS FREE ZONE

Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 26 May 78 p 3

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER MAMDUH SALKIM yesterday declared the city of Marsa Matruh an open city. He said that he will send a team of financial and economic experts to prepare the Marsa Matruh free zone which he inaugurated yesterday.

At a public rally in the city yesterday organised by the Prime Minister and attended by local political leaders, and tribal sheikhs from the Governorate, Mr. Salkim said that Matruh was "the governorate of the future."

The Prime Minister told his audience that studies made by international consultative houses indicated that Matruh had all the potentialities to develop industrially, agriculturally, and touristically.

Planned development projects he said, include a cement factory, a land reclamation plan, the Qattara project, and oil prospecting.

He pointed out that the government had plans to reclaim 20,000 feddans in Siwa with the help of subterranean waters, and that he had allocated L.E. 1 million for constructing the Matruh - Siwa road.

He said that Egypt was proceeding to rectify its economic and political course and that a bright future lay ahead under the wise leadership of President Anwar al Sadat.

He said that the tribes of Matruh had proved their courage through every struggle since the second world war, and particularly in fighting off adverse attempts from the West by other intruders in Libya.

Referendum

"Today," he said, "we are standing on firm ground, making our own decisions and deciding our own fate. The referendum proved the determination of the people to complete the march, and confront dismantling."

The referendum has proved that the vast majority of the people are against going back to the pre-revolution society, heading for a Communist society which dashes the dignity of man."

In his speech, the governor of Matruh, Mr. Ibrahim Kamel reviewed the achievements of the governorate for the welfare of its people, the development and services done for them.

The Secretary of the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt for Matruh asserted the loyalty of all the people in Matruh to President Sadat and their firm belief in his policy. — ESM

CSO: 4820

INVESTMENTS FOR NEW DRAINAGE SYSTEM

Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 25 May 78 p 3

[Text] The Parliamentary Planning Committee held a meeting yesterday under Dr Ahmed Abu Ismail, to review the five-year plans on food sufficiency, irrigation, drainage systems and agriculture.

A total of L. E. 272 million was earmarked for the Drainage Authority and a doubling of the annual rate of investments of drainage projects up to 1982. These projects are intended to increase the productivity of lands that were affected by the high rise of water in some areas.

An increase of agricultural crops is expected, which will help Egypt meet the agreements concluded with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development [IBRD].

The plan is intended to apply drainage systems to more than two million feddans and tile drainage to about 1,300 feddans including 620,000 feddans in Lower Egypt that were not included in the first Delta Drainage project.

Lower Egypt

Another 290,000 feddans in Lower Egypt and 390,000 feddans in both Lower and Upper Egypt are also included.

The plan is also intended to complete the construction of 14 drainage stations, start another 13 stations and to convert an area of 70,000 feddans from basin irrigation to a perennial ave.

A total of L.E. 25 million will be allocated for carrying out the first stage of the Gongly Canal project to the south of Sudan. The Toshky reservoir will also receive a credit of L.E. 33 million to counter the high water level incurred by the High Dam.

As the agricultural expansion projects, the plan has allocated a sum of L.E. 60 million to start reclaiming and cultivating an area of 170,000 feddans.

An area of 30,000 feddans, including area that were short of water will be supplied with water to recultivate the reclaimed spots.

The investments allocated for increasing water supply amounts to L.E. 25 million in addition to another L.E. 4 million to exterminate weeds L.E. 6 million to build a number of research centers, L.E. 7.5 million to carry out desert irrigation projects, and L.E. 8 million to replace as well as renovate irrigation and drainage systems--GSS.

CSO: 4820

MINISTER OF IRRIGATION DISCUSSES VITAL NEW WATER PROJECTS

Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 13 Mar 78 pp 32-34

[Article by Muhammad Zaydan: "Before President Sadat's Visit to the Governorates the Minister of Irrigation Tells Us: 'President Sadat Keeps His Eyes on Three Million New Feddans Quite Naturally!'"']

[Text] Before President Sadat's tour of the governorates, Dr 'Abd-al-'Azim Abu-al-'Ata, minister of irrigation and land reclamation, told me:

"There has been an increase of 3 million feddans of new land in Egypt. Keeping an eye on this new land will be one of the articles on the agenda of the president's visit.

"The Nile loses 50 percent of its water supply in equatorial lakes. Our new projects with the Sudan are dealing with this problem and are also allowing us to increase the amount of new land.

"The High Dam is the greatest Egyptian project. Its bad effects are much less than has been said.

"Irrigation canals will cover Egypt by 1985 in accordance with our agreement with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. This will increase agricultural production by at least 50 percent."

This was not the most important thing that the minister told us. It was only the beginning. Following are more exciting details revealed by the minister.

The New Policy

Eng 'Abd-al-'Azim Abu-al-'Ata said:

"The president's visit to the areas of expansion and development was enough to provide an initial impetus for starting work on these projects.

"In the last meeting of the cabinet, I presented the first program for horizontal expansion in the light of the new policy in which the state is interested. This is the administration of an area of 321,000 feddans which will be purchased and will belong to state and private companies, cooperative societies and individuals.

"These feddans are located in various regions, both north and south. Most are lands with ample water for irrigation and state irrigation projects.

"The parties that will purchase and administer the lands will take charge of reclamation, settlement and individual projects, using irrigation.

"The ministry will seek payment for these lands based on prices for fallow land. The volume of investment required for this first program is 150 million pounds. The majority of the self-financing will be assumed by the land fund.

"The government was not able to enter into this new program until last year, when the actual disposal of all reclaimed lands was completed, some 919,000 feddans since 1952."

The minister added:

"The government was able to put this land, nearly 1 million feddans, on the true path of development.

"Graduates from agricultural colleges bought 23,000 feddans.

"Some 45,500 feddans were sold at public auction.

"Four public sector agricultural companies were set up on an area of 200,000 feddans.

"The poor purchased 150,000 feddans. Other areas were given over to emigrants, the unfortunate and to the families of martyrs and fighters.

"Thus, there can be a start once again to the government program to reclaim 2.8 million new feddans. These are to be added to the current agricultural land, making the total cultivated area in Egypt approximately 9 million feddans. This amount will increase to 10.5 million feddans after the Upper Nile projects are completed. The implementation of the Jonglei Canal began this year. It will cost 67 million pounds to build this canal. The expenses are to be divided 50-50 between Egypt and the Sudan.

"This means that we shall be able to take giant steps towards doubling Egypt's agricultural land."

The Map of Society Is Changing

Dr 'Abd-al-'Azim Abu-al-'Ata, minister of irrigation, was quiet for a moment, then he said:

'What is needed is a change in the structure of Egyptian society, which has changed its makeup completely in the past 50 years.

"In 1906, 81 percent of the Egyptian population was living in the countryside, while now, only 46 percent lives there. At that time, only 19 percent of the people lived in cities, while now, some 54 percent do.

"Accompanying the movement from the country to the city was the creation of great confusion in the makeup of society, not only regarding problems and expectations, but with regard to the demands of life itself. State planning was unable to keep up with this change in the population structure of Egypt.

"This shortcoming was also marked by internal movements, or migration from governorate to governorate. Some governorates, such as the governorates of Upper Egypt, were found to be unattractive, while others were attractive to people, like Cairo and the governorates of the southern Delta. Thus the horizontal expansion projects became not just an economic necessity to increase national income, raise the standard of living and increase agricultural production and food security, but projects of primary social necessity. These will create a change in the geography of Egypt and in its population density by moving its people to the vast deserts and wastelands which make up 96 percent of Egypt's total area."

I said to the minister of irrigation: "So much for horizontal expansion. What about vertical expansion?"

The minister said:

"No doubt production of agricultural lands in Egypt must increase year after year."

The minister was quiet, then he said:

'We know that this is connected to a large degree to many necessary measures, such as:

'Overcoming the problems of agricultural life.

"The necessary development of irrigation and agricultural operations and coming to grips with the labor problem in the countryside and the currently rising costs of agricultural operations.

'Departing from traditional crops in favor of crops bringing greater economic return."

He said: "The government assigns top priority to its irrigation projects, both covered and general irrigation.

"The increase in the productivity of land with covered irrigation has averaged between 30 and 50 percent.

"We have a program that we are trying to put into effect that will encompass 6 million feddans with either covered or general irrigation.

"The average annual rate for our work has now risen to 250,000 feddans in covered irrigation and over 400,000 feddans in general irrigation per year.

"The reports that the ministry follows in implementing these projects and the field studies which were made by the international bank, which finances the irrigation project with foreign currency, have proved that on some good land the rate of increase is no less than 30 percent.

"From all this, we know the real extent of the government's interest in the problem of irrigation, which, if solved, would result in a large increase in agricultural production.

"Egypt will spend approximately 700 million pounds on this project by 1985, that is, twice as much as it spent on the High Dam."

I said to Dr 'Abd-al-'Azim Abu-al-'Ata: "What about the development of water resources necessary for the new areas of good land?"

The minister said:

"Egypt was able, with the great High Dam project, to control completely the present water supply of the Nile, to grasp between its hands every drop of water and to direct it, in the right amount and at the right time, to the right place in order to bring well-being to the people of Egypt and the Sudan. We have also been able to control completely the nature of the river, whether flood level or the season of the Nile's lowest water level, so that these do not affect agricultural conditions in any circumstances.

"In spite of all this, the government has begun, along with the Sudan, the next step to realize the development of resources, and thus to achieve everything.

"With the High Dam, it achieved control over resources and distribution. With its Upper Nile projects with the Sudan, it is realizing the total development of these resources.

"The Nile water coming from the equatorial lakes is 50 percent lost in evaporation and in dams in southern Sudan. With projects like the Jonglei Canal we will be able to achieve additional resources amounting to 18 billion cubic meters from the waters of the two countries. This is a very great amount, since the High Dam provides 22 billion cubic meters.

"The Jonglei Canal, for example, as a joint project, is considered a primary example of cooperation between Egypt and the Sudan. It is also the first joint project being realized and developed 50-50 by Egypt and the Sudan. Projects carried out in the Sudan or in Egypt in the past used to be for the benefit of just one of those countries.

"The Sennar Dam and the al-Rusayris Dam were for the benefit of the Sudan. The Aswan Dam and the Jabal al-'Awliya Dam were to benefit Egypt. The Upper Nile projects and the Jonglei Canal, however, are in the interest of both countries, and both are sharing the costs as well as the benefits from the projects.

"To complete this process of integration, we set up the Sudanese-Egyptian Agricultural Company and the Sudanese-Egyptian Mechanized Drilling Company. The first company is to plant 1 million feddans in the area of al-Damazin and Maqaldurah. The cultivation of these areas is connected with the two countries' needs for crops. The second company is to take part in implementing major projects, using joint Egyptian-Sudanese technical know-how.

"Following this same manner, a study is being made of a number of projects for agricultural integration, such as the cultivation of coffee beans, tea and tobacco in the Sudan and the development of fish wealth in the High Dam lake (Lake Nasir in Egypt and Lake al-Nubah in the Sudan). All this is in addition to other important projects in the field of agriculture and irrigation that will never come to a stop, for the two countries have important water and land resources and the technical expertise to allow these projects to be carried out and achieve excellent results."

The Dam Is Better Than We Expected

I said: "There are still some who are of the opinion that the High Dam is of very little value, who believe that it is detrimental to Egypt and to its agricultural lands."

Although normally calm at all times, the minister's voice rose, and he said:

"I would like to put on record that the High Dam has given an historic idea to engineers of the world as well as an opportunity for experimentation and innovation that cannot originate in another project. The High Dam has, by its nature, proved that all pessimistic expectations that were built on theoretical studies or presumable possibilities have not been realized in the 10 years that the dam has been in operation.

"During the last 10 years the Ministry of Irrigation has kept up with evaporation phenomena, studied cracks in the soil, changes in the water and losses by flowoff and by evaporation in river hydrology. It has also kept its eye on the soundness of the dam and of the industrial operations on the Nile, giving these its utmost attention and care.

"Many studies have firmly established that we are following a sound path and an earnest study. We have our finger on the pulse of all changes that have happened or may happen, thus ensuring the well-being of Egypt and the Egyptian people. The dam will always be a source of prosperity, never an element of danger.

"We praise God every day for having proved to us that we are going on to better things and that there are ample reasons for peace of mind.

"Today we attended the latest session of the Supreme Advisory Board of the High Dam. The board includes all those who took part in the construction of the High Dam or in its studies since 1952. This includes former ministers of irrigation and chief engineers. We are fortunate to state that although some people expected the total river behind the Asyut dam, for example, to reach 11 meters in 700 years, we found that estimates now confirm that it will never be more than 2 or 3 meters during this long period of time. The Nile River between Aswan and Esna has reached the state of equilibrium, and there has been no change in the bed of the waterway or in its banks. All indications confirm this. They also confirm that the river is stabilizing day after day. So, too, the water's ability to carry alluvial mud from the river bed and the banks of the river is diminishing year after year.

"From all of this I am able to confirm that the High Dam is a great project. It brings only prosperity to Egypt and to its agriculture."

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CSO: 4802

NEW FEATURES OF DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT SURVEYED

Cairo OCTOBER in Arabic 23 Apr 78 pp 46-48

/Article by Hatim Nasr Farid: "New Fields for the Green Revolution in Egypt"/

/Text/ Last week President Anwar al-Sadat concluded his field trip around the food self-sufficiency and the desert invasion projects, within the framework of the general strategy of the green revolution, which he has declared in order to achieve prosperity and stability for every citizen. This tour extended to all areas located in southern Egypt, up to our borders with the Sudan, and he inspected the area where the common plan of integration between Egypt and the Sudan, which comprises a number of joint economic, agricultural and industrial projects, is being carried out.

These new projects include reclamation and cultivation of 124,000 feddans, as follows:

15,000 feddans in Wadi al-Sa'ayidah, on which an integrated agricultural processing complex will be established; this will cost 5 million pounds.

77,000 feddans in Wadi al-Naqarah, reclamation of which will cost 114 million pounds.

10,000 feddans in Wadi al-Kubaniyah, costing 3.3 million pounds.

1,000 feddans in the Abu Subayrah inlet, costing 400,000 pounds.

20,000 feddans in Wadi Karkar, costing 8 million pounds.

1,000 feddans around Lake Nasir, costing 1 million pounds.

Costs include the establishment of the major irrigation and drainage projects being established by the Ministry of Irrigation. The land reclamation projects are being carried out by the ministry through cooperative societies set up for this purpose.

In addition a poultry complex will be established on an area of 20 feddans in Aswan. Its productive capacity is estimated at about 1 million hens in the first year, increasing to 5 million in the following 5 years, in addition to 15 million eggs the first year reaching 45 million eggs in the following 5 years. The complex will include the following units: poultry fattening stations, hen raising stations, an automated slaughterhouse, preservation coolers, a fodder plant and an unloading plant.

Total costs come to 4 million pounds. The government will provide 1.5 million pounds, including the price of land. Intrinsic efforts will contribute half a million pounds while foreign and private capital will contribute 2 million pounds.

In order to make use of the great fish resources in Lake Nasir, it has been decided to establish a fish complex with 9.5 million pounds' capital, including a fishing fleet with a capacity of 600 tons per year, a fish processing center with a capacity of 240 tons per year, a river harbor to receive and unload fish which will be linked up to the railroad, an ice plant with a capacity of 24 tons per day, and a boat repair and maintenance shop. This is an integrated project to make use of the great fish resources existing in Lake Nasir and ship them to places where they are consumed and processed.

In order to reach the productive limit of the lake, which is 2,000 tons per year, a contract has been made to purchase 48 fishing vessels, 15 of which will be boats with a capacity of 15 deadweight tons, 7 boats with a capacity of 30 deadweight tons, and 26 wooden launches with a capacity of 15 deadweight tons, in addition to the fishing fleet now operating in the lake, whose components total 50 boats.

A Kiln To Produce Bricks

Wadi Karkar, on the western shore of Lake Nasir, is distinguished by the presence of large amounts of potter's clay and kaolin, which are considered basic materials in the manufacture of ceramics and building materials. A contract has been made with the Egyptian Ceramics Company in Alexandria to use the clay for producing red bricks, which are distinguished by a load strength seven times greater than that of bricks made out of silt. Annual brick production of the plant will be estimated at about 15 million units and in addition it will produce ceramic tiles and other building materials.

A center will also be established for construction and fishing activity training, to create technicians qualified for various skills required by the building and construction industries, and training in modern fishing equipment; the total costs of this center will come to about 1 million pounds.

In order to provide appropriate housing for the citizens in these areas, which will be cultural drawing centers, work is to begin as of next month

in building 400 housing units--economic housing; the costs of this will come to about 1.5 million pounds. Work on it will be finished in about 1 year.

The governorate has made an agreement with the National Insurance Company to construct 40 residential buildings comprising about 1,000 dwelling units of various areas on an 8-feddan plot of land which the governorate is offering the company, on condition that the company deed these units to citizens on a basis of actual costs and that the price be amortized over 20 years.

It has also determined to establish three new villages in an initial capacity--the villages of al-Sadat, al-Salaz and al-'Ubud--on the rural segment of the reclaimed lands around Lake Nasir. At the same time, a study is underway to establish a number of new villages to draw inhabitants on a 250,000-feddan area to be reclaimed around Lake Nasir and to provide the farm labor required to cultivate these lands.

Sugar Cane Equals One-Third the Suez Canal

Sugar cane is one of the most important crops by which Upper Egypt is characterized. However, if we refer to the productivity per feddan, we will find that while it was once estimated at 45 tons of cane, it has now become about 35 tons per feddan. This is a great loss, when we realize that a drop of 1 ton per year over the total sugar cane acreage causes a deficit totalling about 40 million pounds sterling, which is the price of about 6,600 tons of sugar it would have been possible to produce.

The existing sugar cane area is estimated at about 66,000 feddans, producing about 2.3 million tons of cane. This volume produces about 254 tons of sugar, valued at 63.5 million pounds in local currency or the equivalent of 152.5 million pounds sterling, which is the value of the sugar appearing on the world market.

The reasons for the decline in the sugar cane crop, as determined by research conducted by the agricultural engineer Samir Bayyumi, assistant director of agriculture in Aswan, may be listed as follows: seeds, rates of fertilizer application, crop cycle, field pests, and poor drainage.

However, following careful study of each of these five factors, he concluded that the direct cause for this decline may be attributed to poor drainage and the transformation of part of the soil into saline or alkaline land, in addition to inadequate aeration. This is all reflected on the productivity and deterioration of the land.

This problem became more obvious when the expansion of land reclamation and cultivation occurred in the resettlement lands on the New Plateau; the inhabitants filled in the field drains in hopes of increasing the cultivated area. In addition deterioration occurred in the old plateau as a

result of the drop in its water table below the level in the new one.

Eng Samir Bayyumi recommends the establishment of a main drainage system and completion of the cleanup and maintenance of all the main and branch drainage channels existing now, so that they will be able to accommodate drainage water from all field drainage channels, and says it is necessary to hasten to carry this out in order to prevent deterioration, which continues with each passing year. At the same time the costs of implementing this system will also increase with each passing year.

As a result of the construction of this type of system, a per-feddan productivity increase of 5 tons of cane per feddan will occur during the first year. This increase will total more than 320,000 tons of cane as far as the total acreage under cultivation goes; that will yield about 35,000 tons of sugar valued at 3.7 million pounds in local currency and 20.8 million pounds sterling in hard currency.

In addition there are the returns derived from industries based on the waste products of the crop, such as the paper, particle board, black honey, molasses, vinegar, and alcohol industries and some other gases.

That is, the cash revenue will exceed 20 million pounds sterling in the first year, and this return will double to 40 million pounds sterling in the following years. Therefore, the importance and urgency of this type of project becomes clear to us, at a time when we are declaring a green revolution in order to attain security in food.

The Faculty of Science at Aswan University is participating in this green revolution. In spite of its short life, which does not exceed 3 years, and the meagerness of the resources available for scientific research, serious scientific research has started, around Lake Nasir in particular.

This research, as Dr 'Abd-al-Salam 'Arifayn, instructor in the faculty, says, is proceeding in three main directions, as follows:

Chemical studies on the water and silt in the lake, to determine scarce elements at various depths and in various parts of the lake; the study of these elements and their relationship to plant and animal physiology; the study of radioactive elements and their presence in the lake silt, in the form of compounds which have radioactive elements in them; and the extent to which it is possible to use these elements if their presence in commercial quantities is established.

Study of the parasites living inside the fish, in particular inside the digestive system, their effect on the growth and weight of the fish, the volume of protein derived, and a study of the effect of scarce elements on the fish themselves.

A study of the accumulations of plants and fine vegetable organisms existing in the Nile in general and in Lake Nasir in particular. This study, which is considered the first of its kind in Egypt, will be aimed at ascertaining the relationship of these plant accumulations to fish resources and determining the most preferable of them for fish growth, procreation and development.

Dr 'Abd-al-Salam 'Arifayn adds that there is, alongside preceding studies on Lake Nasir, geological research underway on the area surrounding Lake Nasir and the High Dam up to the vicinity of the Red Sea. This research comprises a study of the structure of this area and determination of its geological age, in addition to economic geological studies conducted for the sake of discovering new minerals and ores and developing the means whereby we may exploit the ores which exist now so that it will be possible to make use of the scarce elements which might be present in small proportions alongside them, by using precise modern scientific methods and techniques.

Dr 'Abd-al-Salam 'Arifayn stresses the need to strive toward vertical expansion in agriculture, in addition to horizontal expansion, lest the productivity of the land being farmed now decline and in order that it may be possible to increase per-feddan crop productivity. In this regard, it is essential to derive new types of crops which will yield greater production and expand the use of agricultural machinery to preserve animal resources.

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CSO: 4802

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN QINA SURVEYED

Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 21 Apr 78 pp 62-67

/Article: "The Green Revolution--To Attain Self-Sufficiency in Food in the Governorate of Qina"/

/Text/ Qina received special attention from President Anwar al-Sadat during his followup visit to the southern valley governorates, in which he announced the start of the Green Revolution, the third revolution to attain self-sufficiency in food and cause life to burst forth in the remote corners of the Egyptian deserts. As Maj Gen 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Bajuri, the governor of Qina, says, this comprehensive forward vision of president al-Sadat's aimed at providing a future and prosperity for the Egyptian people and at developing the resources, wealth and intrinsic powers of the Egyptian people, is the first wave of development, growth and progress in the plan to develop, build, reconstruct and achieve prosperity during the past 2 years in the Governorate of Qina and all the governorates of Egypt. The significance of the Governorate of Qina derives from some special characteristics: it is the connecting link to the eastern part of Egypt on the Red Sea coast, with its defensive importance and ancient mines rich in every mineral; it is the governorate which possesses the greatest amount of ancient Pharaonic antiquities and Pharaonic shrines and tombs, which draw tourists from all countries of the world to the cultural heritage of Egypt through history; and it is the model which may be adopted in order to make a success of experiments to establish an integrated agricultural-industrial society where self-sufficiency in food may be attained and modern scientific development plans may be carried out.

Projects for Self-Sufficiency in Food

In the past 2 years the Governorate of Qina has taken broad strides in projects for self-sufficiency in food. Maj Gen 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Bajuri, the governor of Qina, says: "The governorate has devoted special attention to these projects and has granted importance to implementing them. The most prominent of these are the provision of meat, dairy products, vegetables and fruit. If we talk in detail about what the governorate has carried out

in these fields, we can say:

"Fattening projects: we established a main fattening station in the town of Qina, with a first-stage capacity of 1,100 head, and the capacity of the station has doubled, along with the sums invested in it, to the point where the calves slaughtered by the project rose to 11,500 head in 1977. These were offered to the public in the towns and villages of the governorates; the meat was sold through cooperative and consumer societies and branches, and cooperative butchers and specific cooperative societies in government departments participated in selling them. These covered citizens' requirements at a price of 105 piasters rather than 140 piasters per kilogram of meat. In the face of this success we have considered it proper to expand the station to accommodate 2,200 head, and the project's services have extended to the Red Sea Governorate, covering its requirements, which come to 50 head per month, selling these to the citizens at a price of 120 piasters.

"Dairy product supply: in October 1977 we established a station in the Qina Forest farm to raise frisian cattle, which are noted for their high milk yields. The first stage of the project started with a herd of 50 cattle and it was our aim to limit the rise in dairy product prices. We succeeded in producing 400 kilograms of milk per day, sold to citizens at a price of 12 piasters per kilogram.

"Poultry projects: we have built two new stations to produce al-Badari poultry, with an output of 10,000 hens per cycle each every 2 months. It was necessary that there be a local source to supply the governorate with its chick requirements, following the troubles we had run into. A study on the problem stated that it was necessary that the governorate's agencies enter in to operate the poultry research station in al-Mata'inah, which used to belong to the Ministry of Agriculture; following research and study, it became possible to operate it at its full productive capacity, which comes to 250,000 chicks per year, after the sum of 70,000 pounds had been provided from the Local Investment Fund to carry out expansions in the buildings and raise the flock of egg-laying hens which will provide the station with the eggs needed to produce a quarter of a million chicks per year. This expansion in poultry raising required the construction of a poultry fodder plant, and an automated plant which produces 3 tons per hour was purchased to provide poultry fodder.

"Agrarian reform and its resources: it is very essential that the capacities and resources of the agrarian reform agency in the governorate be used in projects for food self-sufficiency. The town of Naj'Hammadi has been a site for the implementation of a number of such projects, like the fattening station, which produces 300 head per cycle, the al-badari poultry production units, with a capacity of 5,000 hens every 2 months, the chick-laying station, whose output totals half a million chicks per year, and the poultry fodder plant, which produces 5 tons per hour. The Agrarian Reform Cooperative Society at Naj'Hammadi has participated in financing all these

projects through intrinsic efforts in the form of farmers' funds.

"Fruit, vegetables and projects to supply these: the cultivated area of the Qina forest comes to 400 feddans, and this has been planted with fruit trees--figs, olives, oranges, dates and pomegranates. The governorate has transferred jurisdiction over the farm itself, a local council was formed to manage it, and the sum of 50,000 pounds was allocated from the Local Investment Fund to develop it. It has been provided with easily-obtained irrigation water and its objectives are now specified as being to market its fruit and vegetable production throughout all areas of the governorate at prices below the compulsory pricing levels. As regards the Luxor farm, which the town council owns and whose area totals 25 feddans, it has been possible to transform this into a vegetable farm supplying the town's markets with their production requirements; these are offered to the everyday consumer at low prices. As for the al-'Araki farm, this has been handed over to its peasant owners, who have reclaimed it into farmland in accordance with the president's instructions and the rule that land belongs to those who reclaim it. We have delivered the land to its owners, and they have expressed their readiness to contribute its output to fruit and vegetable projects in the governorate.

"Preliminary results of the projects for security in food supply in the Governorate of Qina, especially in the fields of fruit and vegetable supply from the Qina Forest and Luxor town farms, show that they have contributed to lowering sales prices to the citizen. These are the per-kilogram prices: oranges, 5 piasters; tomatoes, 5 piasters; zucchini, 3 piasters; beans, 10 piasters; figs, 12 piasters; peas, 13 piasters; eggplant, 4 piasters; cucumbers, 8 piasters; and lettuce, 5 piasters.

"Provision of fish: to help cope with requirements for self-sufficiency in food, the governorate, following the success in lowering meat prices to 105 piasters per kilogram and providing the required amounts of meat, has concentrated attention on providing fresh fish and raising them in the governorate's extensive marshes. The governorate, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, has started to establish fish farms and large volumes have been produced. In the District of Dashna, for example, there are 300 feddans suitable for establishing this type of fish farm.

"The Governorate of Qina has bought two refrigerated trucks to transport fresh fish to the governorate from Aswan every day and also to transport frozen fish from Sawhaj every day. The monthly quantity of fish comes to 16 tons."

The Third Revolution To Reclaim Land Began in Qina

The reclamation and farming of new land in the Governorate of Qina is an absolute necessity which is dictated by the narrow area cultivated in the governorate, which is no more than 331,000 feddans. After seeking the aid of specialized agencies and following serious studies, it was necessary

that a plan be set forth to reclaim 57,669 feddans in various areas of the governorate in order to increase agricultural output. The reclaimed lands are: 4,000 feddans in al-Fallas, 3,000 feddans in al-Mukhadimah, 22,400 feddans in the al-Murashidah area, 800 feddans in al-Kunuz, 1,000 feddans in Qift, 2,500 feddans in Hijazah, 1,200 feddans in Makram, 2,000 feddans in al-Bayyadiyah, 2,000 feddans in Wadi Nasim, 7,000 feddans in Abu Tisht reclamation, 800 feddans east of Isna, and 7,669 feddans in south al-Mahamid, al-Ruzayfat, and al-Riyaniyah.

Eng Muhammad Nasr-al-Din, the commander and secretary general of the Governorate of Qina, says that studies the governorate has performed on these reclaimed areas have yielded up the following facts:

The al-Mukhadimah area, which is 3,000 feddans in area, was levelled 5 years ago and the inhabitants farmed a large portion of it with sugar cane, yielding a good crop; if water pumping equipment is provided it will be possible to farm the remaining area at once.

The al-Murashidah area; its area is estimated at about 22,400 feddans. It lies between the village of Dandarah and Naj' Hammadi and the Nile River passes alongside it. It can be irrigated from the waters of the Nile by pumping machines, the inhabitants have farmed more than 1,000 feddans of it, and a cooperative society has been established to reclaim it.

The Qus lands, which are about 1,200 feddans in the Makram and al-'Aqab land and 6,500 feddans in the Qift lands, can be reclaimed and deeded to the inhabitants. About 500 feddans of these have actually been planted with sugar cane through intrinsic efforts, and the yield per feddan has been 55 tons of cane.

The Armant area; this is part of the al-Mahamid, al-Ruzayfat and al-Riyaniyah lands which can be reclaimed. It is 7,969 feddans in area and some inhabitants have drilled artesian wells in accordance with their abilities and have cultivated some of this area. This region needs to have some irrigation channels built and to have work on expansion of the al-Hajir Canal.

In the framework of President Anwar al-Sadat's directives, and his declaration of the green revolution to attain self sufficiency in food for our people, the Governorate of Qina has encouraged citizens to form agricultural cooperative societies to start on land reclamation projects; the value of the money citizens have deposited in the Egyptian National Bank as shares in these societies totals 841,956 pounds. Some people in the governorate who own the Dashna Land Reclamation Company have actually moved their equipment to the governorate to participate in reclamation activities.

It is most essential, in order for the land reclamation and cultivation projects to bear fruit, that the irrigation water needed for farming be provided. The Ministry of Irrigation included allocations of 4.85 million pounds in its budget to carry out new irrigation and drainage projects on these areas in the Governorate of Qina; in addition, the governorate is

providing those areas of this land which can be farmed by 150-horsepower diesel irrigation engines with more than one of these engines per area. In fact, it has started to put some of these motors or floating barges in order to work in irrigating the islands, which number 17 in the Governorate of Qina and have an area of 3,000 feddans--all of which can be farmed. The governorate, through constant, intensified contacts with the Ministry of Agriculture has sought to lend farmers 15,000 pounds to clean out sugar cane cultivation channels and drains, in order to attempt to develop cane cultivation in the area; the money has been obtained and the cleaning and expansion projects have started. The governorate is also making a great effort to persuade the Ministry of Electricity to lower the costs of electrifying irrigation motors, because that is the best and cheapest operating resource.

It honors us all that our devout leader, the hero of the liberation and the crossing, the symbol of peace and the conqueror of the desert, is blessing our campaign to raise green banners above the southern valley and is handing out deeds to 10,000 feddans in the al-Murashidah Society and to another 3,000 in the al-Kallahin Society, in addition to 5,000 feddans in the al-Murashidah lands which were allocated to agricultural faculty graduates as an incentive for their ambitions.

The University Training Center: the Nucleus of Qina University

In a conversation, Dr Tawfiq 'Ali Barakat, superintendent of the University Training Center in Qina, said,

"The University Center in the Governorate of Qina comprises three faculties: the Faculty of Science (1973), the Faculty of Education (1970) and the Faculty of Letters (1977). Next year, God willing, we will build a faculty for food and agricultural processing technological sciences.

"Our Faculty of Sciences comprises all the science departments which the Faculty of Science at Asyut University contains. When the faculty was established in 1973, we faced a deficiency in teaching requirements, but now, 5 years later, we have been able to make up numerous aspects of this deficiency, and the situation will change completely when the specialized delegations we have sent abroad return. Study in the Faculty of Letters, established a year ago, has been restricted to two branches--English language and literature and Arabic language and literature--in order to provide the teaching faculty with the specialists required for these subjects.

"Our oldest faculty is the Faculty of Education; this comprises all branches and study in it is basically oriented toward graduating trainers and teachers. So far four classes have graduated from it, and the graduates have met all the governorate's schools' requirements for teachers--indeed, some specialists are surplus to requirements, for example those in mathematics and the English language.

"In the field of environmental service, the University Training Center plays a positive role; it is opening summer vacation classes in the education department schools, where the people in the center do the teaching, to strengthen pupils' background. This is one of the most successful educational experiments in the governorate. In addition, a night institute is being established to teach the English language to beginners and strengthen the background of students; here, two assistant professors do the teaching and two Englishmen teach the English language at the Faculty of Letters.

"The governor, Maj Gen 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Bajuri, is to be thanked for helping to bolster the university village with residential structures; this city now consists of 11 buildings, accommodating 750 students, who total 2,000 in number; this proportion is not available to any /other/ university in the republic. Our university village has thus accommodated all students who want to reside there, without exception or restriction.

"In addition to this, the governor has reinforced the budget of the Federation of Students in the University Center with the sum of 3,000 pounds, from which payments for various student activities are to be made.

"While the University Center is the nucleus of the University of Qina, this university will be a national necessity as regards a governorate which has suffered greatly in the past from a neglect which has led to a great deal of backwardness. The site for the new university has been selected 6 kilometers outside of Qina, in the desert area between Qina and Safajah. The New Valley Contracting Company is doing the construction from designs drawn up by Eng 'Abd-al-Mun'im Hasan Kamil, former vice president of Asyut University and current president of al-Minya University. Four units have been built so far but still lack finishing work. Construction of the other units will be started, but the project is short of money and the necessary budget for completing it must be arranged."

Half a Million Pounds To Consolidate Electric, Road and Service Facilities in Qina

Maj Gen 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Bajur, the governor of Qina, has allocated the sum of half a million pounds to consolidate service centers in the districts of the governorate during 1978. Of this, a sum of 35,000 pounds has been set aside to consolidate the electric systems in the new sections of Luxor, Nafadah, 'Izbat Hamid in Qina, Farshut and Abu Tisht.

Eng Muhammad Tawfiq Qandil, director of electricity in Qina, says,

"It has been decided that 72 villages are to be electrified: 13 in the districts of Abu Tisht, 8 in Naj' Hammadi, 7 in Dashna, 14 in Qina, 12 in Qus, five in Nafadah, five in Luxor, two in Armant, and six in Isna. In order to select these villages in an equitable manner, a list of all the main hamlets whose population exceeds 1,000 was prepared, then consideration

was given to the percentages of those hamlets which had been electrified in recent years. The budget for this plan comes to 4 million pounds.

"In the areas of electricity, the town of Luxor has been totally consolidated; the rest of the airport road has been furnished with lighting, water-wheels and irrigation and farming motors have been electrified at a cost of about half a million pounds, electric systems have been laid for village services which are now being built (72 villages in the case of villages in the 1978 plan), and the governorate is being supplied with 500 poles to consolidate villages which have already been electrified and 20 electric transformers to support towns in the governorate.

"One of the most conspicuous factors aiding in the implementation of electricity plans in the governorate is pursuit of the technique of intrinsic labor for implementation. The Qina Department of Electricity takes charge of implementing electricity projects without putting them up for contractors to bid to carry them out, in order to save time. This is a method which is supported and defended by the governor."

Eng Makram Farid, manager of the Department of Roads in the Governorate of Qina, says:

"It is a source of pride that the asphalt mixing plant in the Governorate of Qina, which is one of seven to have been imported from abroad and distributed among the governorates, is the only one actually operating now. This has made it possible to carry out the expansion, repair and paving of roads inside Qina and Luxor, to build and pave the mill road in Qina and to pave the road east of Sidi 'Abd-al-Rahman in Qina. In 2 weeks' time performance of the construction and paving of the Qift-Qus Regional Road will start. One of the road projects underway now in the governorate is the paving of the road west of the Nile from Qina to Nafadah, 31 kilometers long, costing three quarters of a million pounds. The road has been paved from the village of Hu to Naj' Hammadi--12.5 kilometers--at a cost of half a million pounds, and the regional road has been paved from Naj' Hammadi to Farshut, over a length of 7.5 kilometers, at a cost of a quarter of a million pounds.

"One of the good works which have helped in the implementation of the governorate's plan in the field of road paving has been the creative, fruitful cooperation the citizens have all shown in constructing the road east of Sidi 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Qinawi. The inhabitants, persuaded to take intrinsic efforts, participated in removing the cemeteries which had been standing in the way of implementation of this important project; on this occasion, Maj Gen 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Bajuri sends his keep thanks to the inhabitants of this area, who have set a splendid example through their sincere cooperation with the executive agencies in the governorate in carrying out the project.

"One of the most conspicuous of the important future projects in the Governorate of Qina is the western Qina-Isna road. This proceeds from Qina to Isna, a distance of 115 kilometers, and serves five administrative districts--Qina, Qus, Luxor, Armant and Isna--in addition to the District of Nafadah. This road possesses special importance from the economic, social, and tourist standpoints and from the standpoint of public security. There is no alternative to this road; the inhabitants are lacking a railroad. Hopes are firm that the minister of transportation will agree to include a special budget to complete paving of the west Qina-Isna Road, owing to its maximum importance to the governorate."

The Bright Face of Tourism in Qina Governorate

As regards antiquities, time has left no cultural resources like those in the Governorate of Qina. In Luxor there is the greatest of natural antiquities museums; this eternal town contains the most elegant antiquities in the world. Adding to the region's importance is the tourist repute enjoyed by the Dandarah Temple which lies on the west bank facing Qina. In addition the Isna Temple in the south of the governorate stands as a witness to the glory of Pharaonic civilization.

All efforts in the Governorate of Qina during this period have been concentrated on developing the governorate from the touristic standpoint, in co-operation with the relevant ministries, while benefiting from the policy of economic liberalization and attracting Arab, foreign and local capital.

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development project to develop the city of Luxor touristically heads the list of tourist projects. The bank is taking charge of financing 50 percent of the Luxor tourist development project through a loan which it is providing to the Egyptian government. The bank sent a delegation which stated in its reports that the town of Luxor is foremost among the tourist areas of Egypt and is one of the most important of regions attracting tourism, and this requires that it be developed touristically so that it can cope with the increasing demand in the world tourist market. The development projects have been estimated at 40 million Egyptian pounds, and one of its most conspicuous phenomena in the development of tourism has been the increase in Luxor's capacity from 770 rooms at present to 3,000 rooms in 1990.

An expansion plan is now underway at Luxor Airport to receive giant (jumbo and charter) jets to bring tours of visitors directly to Luxor from the world's airports and alleviate pressure on Cairo International Airport.

The governorate has given great attention to stimulating domestic tourist activity with the objective of making large sectors of the public want to visit archaeological areas and become acquainted with the features of the historic civilization of our people, with their deep heritage. In 1977 it was possible to back up the resources of the Authority to Stimulate Tourism in the governorate with the sum of 67,000 pounds to stimulate tourist activity.

Cooperation has started between the Governorates of Qina and the Red Sea in numerous projects of a touristic character. A study is now being made of a project to prepare the port of Safajah for pilgrims to Mecca and to develop the port for the travel of pilgrims to sites in the Hijaz in order to lessen the pressure on Cairo Airport and the port of Suez, reduce the costs of the trip, and shorten the pilgrimage period. The minister of the interior has given agreement to this project. There is a study on the project to establish coastal bungalows on the Red Sea; the people in the Governorate of Qina face difficulties in taking summer vacations on the northern coasts of the republic, and the Governorate of Qina has studied the possibility of making use of the Red Sea coast near the southern part of Upper Egypt. The Red Sea Governorate has given its agreement to the sale of 100 feddans at al-Ghardaqah and Safajah to the Governorate of Qina to construct tourist facilities for the people of the Governorate of Qina.

The Jolie Ville in Luxor

Maj Gen 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Bajuri, governor of Qina, says that he has noticed that all the new hotels being erected in Luxor are assuming the formal appearance of hotels and that the town of Luxor has come to be in urgent need of hotel projects which will play an effective role in recreation, culture, sports, society, medical treatment benefits, and auditoriums for international conferences. His idea of establishing an integrated tourist village in Luxor has hence come into being.

The project has been set out for bid internationally and a number of international firms have presented their construction bids. The best bid was that of the Jolie Ville of Luxor, belonging to the same company which manages the Jolie Ville of the Pyramid.

It is anticipated that the first stage of the Luxor Jolie Ville village will be erected on al-Timsah Isle in November 1979, to be followed by the second stage in November 1981 and the third in November 1983. The Governorate of Qina has offered shares in the company owning the project for public subscription and any citizen can buy any number of shares. The village is being set up on an area of 50 feddans and will include 350 modern rooms provided with everything the town of Luxor lacks. It will include a golf course, tennis courts, clubhouses, a movie theater, models of archaeological sites, son et lumiere projects and a tourist bazaar. Implementation of this project will undoubtedly provide Egypt with an international tourist allure and will be considered a new source of national tourist income.

11887

CSO: 4802

SUBTLE CHANGE NOTED IN MAJLIS

Teheran F.Y.I. IRAN POLITICAL DIGEST in English 14 May 78 pp 9-11

[Text] A subtle change in the Majlis posture has been noticeable recently, especially in relation to the government, while that of the Senate remains unchanged. The new posture became particularly noticeable after the dissident riots in Tabriz. A Tabriz deputy in the Majlis, Mr. Ahmad Bani-Ahmad, tabled a motion of censure in February 1978 concerning the Tabriz riots.

The censure was astonishing in two respects. First, that the government had not been censured by any Majlis deputy in recent years and therefore had had no occasion to call for a vote of confidence following a censure motion. Second, the very subject matter of the censure motion tilted in favour of the dissidents in that the motion alleged that the behavior of some government officials in Tabriz had been such as to cause public anger and that when the public protested they were treated as foreigners or foreign hirelings.

The Minister of the Interior spoke on behalf of the government, which had no difficulty in obtaining a vote of confidence. The press carried little comment on either the censure motion or its repercussions. On 4th May 1978, Mr. Daneshi, Majlis deputy from Abadan, (and the only mullah in the Majlis) commented on the motion and alleged that the original text had been copied and distributed abroad and had reached many government dissidents. By that, he implied that Mr. Bani-Ahmad was acting as an agent of foreign interests.

On 2nd May, Mr. Bani-Ahmad had tabled another question regarding what he called the press censorship by the Ministry of Information and Tourism (see FYI, No. 178), in that he alleged that there was no freedom of the press and that published materials were censored in favour of the government.

That coincided with another question put in by Mr. Mohsen Pezeshkpour (Majlis Deputy from Khorramshahr) concerning the bombing incidents by the so-called Committee for Revenge, involving houses of dissidents. The Minister of Justice replied to this question and stressed that the government saw its duty to protect all citizens and to apprehend and prosecute law-breakers. The Minister said as soon as the bombing victims had complained, the authorities launched an investigation and once the perpetrators are caught they will be prosecuted and punished according to the law.

Mr. Pezeshkpour did not consider the answer satisfactory and asked why, when a law had been broken, the authorities waited for six days until they received formal complaints, before they launched an investigation.

Mr. Pezeshkpour also maintained that the "committee for revenge" was disrupting law and order and in any case it was wrong that such organisations or even the civil guard which was formed to offer grass-roots resistance to foreign aggressors in time of need, should be employed to fight other Iranian citizens and to treat these citizens as if they were foreign hirelings. He argued that this pits Iranian against Iranian and would therefore undermine national unity.

Mr. Pezeshkpour was several times interrupted, especially by Mr. Daneshi until he appealed to the Speaker to ensure orderly conduct of parliamentary procedure, and warned that he would end his speech if these interruptions continued. Mr. Pezeshkpour later did walk away from the rostrum and return to his seat. When (retd. brig. gen.) Bayad came to the rostrum to defend the right of deputies to speak freely, he was in turn interrupted by Mr. Daneshi and Mr. Abbas-Mirzai who at one stage told him to shut up and sit down.

This kind of uproar in the Majlis had been unprecedented in recent years and particularly since the formation of the Rastakhiz Party since when all members of parliament had belonged to the one party, and therefore in principle should not be attacking each other.

The higher authorities have stressed on many occasions that all citizens and particularly their representatives belong to the Rastakhiz Party and therefore have common aims and objectives. If there was a difference, it would be in the taste and approach. The Rastakhiz Party has developed two wings to represent these different tastes and approaches.

The severity of the Majlis attacks went far beyond the differences that have been seen between the two wings of the Rastakhiz Party and may symbolize the existence of two distinct tactics within the lower house. One would like a tough attitude towards dissidents even by using the civil guard; while the other would like to avoid such drastic measures as bombing of prominent dissidents while trying to win over students and similar elements.

Mr Pezeshkpour was the leader of the right-wing Pan-Iranist Party which in 1975 with other political parties joined the newly-established Rastakhiz Party. According to the BBC, early in April Mr Pezeshkpour wrote an open letter to the Prime Minister and Rastakhiz Party Secretary General, Dr Jamhid Amouzegar, asking that the Pan-Iranist Party be allowed to resume its own activities. The Iranian press has reported no such letter or request, but if there is any basis to the BBC report, it would explain the stronger stand taken by the pro-government Majlis deputy against Mr Pezeshkpour.

FUNDS EARMARKED FOR MAJLIS CONSTITUENCIES

Teheran F.Y.I. IRAN POLITICAL DIGEST in English 14 May 78 pp 11-12

[Text] The government submitted a draft by-law to the Majlis on 24th April 1978 concerning the implementation of Note 14 to the current national budget. This requires an expenditure of Rls. 4,000 million for "essential and emergency expenditures and operations" to be divided among all constituencies and to be spent as directed by the Majlis Deputies concerned in respect of development projects.

Divided by the number of Majlis deputies, the total sum means that each Majlis deputy gets an allocation of approximately Rls. 16.1 million. With the exception of Tehran which has 27 seats in Parliament, other constituencies will be getting the following sums:

<u>Constituency</u>	<u>Seats</u>	<u>Allocation</u>
Tabriz	9	149,377,500
Shiraz and Mashhad (each)	7	116,182,500
Isfahan	5	82,987,500
Rezaiyeh, Kerman, Kermanshah, Resht, Babol, Abadan, Ahwaz and Karaj (each)	3	49,792,500
Maragheh, Miyaney, Miandoab, Zanjan, Bandar Abbas, Sanandaj, Lahijan, Sari, Gorgan, Gonbad- Kavous, Bushehr, Sabzevar, Neishabour, Quchan, Bojnord, Zahedan, Zabol, Shahi, Arak, Shahr-Rey, Shemiran, Khorramabad, Hamedan and Malayer (each)	2	33,195,000
Religious minorities	5	82,990,000
The remaining 136 constituencies each of which has only one deputy (total)	136	2,257,260,000

This new government move in using local development funds subject to the views of local members of parliament, is quite unprecedented, even though the total sum is not very large. However, it has many advantages.

- It will enhance the standing of the members of parliament among their constituents. The members of parliament will be better able to campaign during the next election on their record and efficiency in spending such funds.
- The direct involvement of Majlis deputies in respect of such expenditures will ensure timely, speedy and more efficient expenditure of funds especially in rural areas.
- Should this experiment prove successful, more funds will be allocated for this purpose in the coming years.

CSO: 4820

GNP HAS SEEN STEADY GROWTH IN RECENT YEARS

Teheran IRAN ECONOMIC SERVICE in English 16 May 78 p 9

[Text] The past few years have seen a rapid increase in the rate of growth of the Gross National Products (GNP), mainly due to the high rate of oil revenues and industrial growth, which have given the country a mean rate of 10 percent per annum. The highest rates were attained in the mid-seventies when oil prices quadrupled.

<u>Year</u>	<u>GNP Growth Rate</u>
1973-74	33.9%
1974-75	41.6%
1975-76	2.6%
1976-77	13.8%
1977-78	3.5%*

* Estimated

The highest figures coincide with the years when oil prices rose, or when exports increased (such as in 1976 when many Western countries begun to build up a strategic stockpile of oil). Despite such drops as in 1975-76 or last year (when unofficial experts have put the growth rate at 3.5 percent) Iran has shown a constant rate of increase higher than most countries in the world.

Iran is diversifying its industrial and agricultural base in order to reduce the dependence of its GNP on the performance of the oil industry. During the last nine months of 1977, the non-oil sectors showed a growth of 9 percent which was quite encouraging.

CSO: 4820

ANNUAL WASTAGE REACHING STAGGERING PROPORTIONS

Teheran IRAN ECONOMIC SERVICE in English 16 May 78 p 10

[Text] Dr. Farrokh Safavi, an Iranian on the teaching staff of the West Washington University, was incited by the Iranian Government to study cargo handling and distribution in Iran. A summary of his report, prepared at the end of a nine-month study, appeared in the "Management Today" --a periodical of the Government Administration Training Centre, and quoted in the weekly KHANDANIHA (No. 34, 6.5.78)

The report reviews the foreign trade of the past three years, and its phenomenal growth due to increased oil revenues. In 1976-77 imports amounted to 13.8-million tons valued at Rls. 901.76 billion, compared to a mere 6.7 million tons in 1973-74 valued at Rls. 253.19 billion. This was a staggering 206 percent increase in imports in three years.

The increase in the volume of goods handled by Iranian ports averaged 85 percent a year, or a total of 211 percent in three years.

The report says it would be difficult to separate government from private sector imports, and hence it is in no position to specify the percentage increase in each sector. But according to experts, the government's share of total imports is 68 percent.

Despite such massive increases in imports, there has been no major improvement in the cargo handling facilities or distribution network; consequently very heavy pressures were brought to bear upon ports, highways, railways, customs warehouses and offices and on the means of transportation. Congestion alone cost the nation Rls. 90 billion (\$1.3 billion) last year. Wastage of perishable and other imported goods in stores and warehouses rose to the amazing figure of 74 percent of the value of imports!

KHANDANIHA calculates that 74 percent of the total value of imports which is said to have gone to waste gives the staggering and incredible figure of Rls. 666,000,000,000 (about \$9.5 billion).

NEGOTIATIONS WITH CONSORTIUM CONTINUE

Teheran F.Y.I. IRAN POLITICAL DIGEST in English 14 May 78 pp 2-8

[Text] On 2nd May 1978, Tehran's newspapers announced that the latest round of negotiations between the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and representatives of the Consortium of international oil companies held in Tehran had ended without agreement. As usual, the Consortium representatives had left for London to convey the Iranian views to their companies.

Iran and NIOC had been unhappy for some time (see FYI, No. 167) with the way the international oil companies were implementing the current agreement of July 1973. Preliminary discussions were held in 1977 to inform them of the Iranian views, but the first round of formal negotiations did not get under way in Tehran until 4th March 1978.

Iran's Views

The Iranian views were formally conveyed to the oil companies during the first round of the negotiations which continued until early April 1978. It was evident that the bulk of the agreement was up for re-negotiation because of the changed circumstances arising from the failure of the major oil companies to adhere to the agreement. The major points were:

1. Annual fixing of the quantity of crude oil to be exported by Iran and marketed by the consortium.
2. The period of the agreement during which Iranian oil will be exported by Iran and marketed by the consortium. NIOC is believed to be planning to market Abadan Refinery products independently.
3. The amount of Iranian oil products to be marketed by the consortium.
4. Marketing operations of the consortium.

According to ETTELA'AT (4th March 1978), Iran considers the consortium a major, reliable and virtually permanent customer and for these reasons it attaches special importance to the consortium and gives it a discount of 15¢ to 16¢ a barrel. Against such concessions, it would expect the consortium to make it clear as any major customer would how much oil it intends to offtake every year in order to enable NIOC to plan its own production targets and also to enable NIOC to inform the government of how much oil revenues to expect.

ETTELA'AT recalled that these points were contained in the 1973 agreement but the consortium had unilaterally infringed the agreement in the past several years. The current negotiations would bind the consortium more effectively to give annual indication of its intended offtake. Without this provision, the 1973 agreement would be meaningless.

ETTELA'AT stressed that without such annual commitments the consequences may be more harmful to the consortium than to Iran, especially in the 1980's.

The press commented on the situation during the first round of negotiations. By early May, from press reports, the following points emerged:

- In the light of the past agreements, it would be better to shorten the period of future agreements and preferably open the agreement for review once every five years. This has been made inevitable in the past because of changing conditions. Hence the 1973 agreement which should have lasted until the late 1990's, is now overdue for review because the oil companies themselves began to disregard it a couple of years ago.
- Oil payments were agreed upon in 1973 when the financial relationship between the oil producing countries and the oil operating companies were undergoing major changes. At present, the way payments are being effected by the oil companies contravened the 1973 agreement and therefore must be reviewed.
- Abadan Refinery products are no longer being purchased by the consortium. The agreement concerning these products was suspended by the consortium members. The consortium no longer binds itself to purchasing the Abadan Refinery products and this is at variance with NIOC's objective of exporting more oil products than crude oil. Consequently, the consortium decision has had an unfavourable effect not only in Iranian oil circles but also on the economy.

Apart from these major issues, there are a number of other minor problems that usually crop up during the implementation of any agreement and which would require negotiation to resolve.

According to qualified Iranian sources the new agreement should contain a "most favoured nation" clause in order to ensure that Iran will benefit from any changes in the general provisions of other oil agreements signed

in the Persian Gulf region. One example of this is the new agreement concluded between Saudi Arabia and the Arabian American Oil Company (Arameo) whose contents have not been officially revealed. However, there are rumours about certain concessions having been made to Saudi Arabia. If that is true, then Iran would want similar concessions.

Foreign Comments

The BBC, which is generally believed to reflect the Western oil companies' thinking, commented on 4th March 1978 in its Persian Service that despite noticeable progress being made by NIOC to directly sell its oil abroad, Iran is still largely dependent on the oil consortium which still exports an average of about four million barrels a day of Iranian crude. Furthermore, Iran still needs consortium experts for oil production.

The BBC quoted Mr Ansary, the NIOC chairman and general managing director, that the oil consortium members have been lax in training Iranian personnel; and that the Iranian government wants the Consortium to undertake a long-term oil off-take arrangement.

Second Round

After a brief suspension, the negotiations were resumed during April 1978. As had been the practice in recent years, virtually nothing was published during this period in order not to prejudice the issues under discussion. Nonetheless, experts in Iran and abroad did express surprise at the way the negotiations were being dragged. Originally everyone had expected a new agreement before the end of March.

On 25 April, the BBC announced in its Persian programme that "early hopes for a new long-term agreement between Iran and the Consortium, are now fading. Most oil observers now believe that the negotiations may run well into the summer. This is precisely opposite to what was leaked out during the first round of negotiations several weeks ago..."

"Both sides are seeking a better and lasting solution envisaging future changes in the oil market, and providing for Iranian oil supply capacity under different oil price conditions. This has become more difficult especially in the light of the 1973 Agreement which was to have been a 20-year agreement but virtually disintegrated after a year..."

"Iran wants to bind the Consortium to a tough and strict agreement while the Consortium wants freedom of action compared to that of other oil suppliers... The problem of annual determination of oil production and similar issues are yet to be resolved.

"Furthermore Iran wants the Consortium to buy refined products on which the Consortium is not very keen. NIOC has been obliged to store large quantities of refined products, and since its storage capacity is limited, this situation cannot last for long."

On 3 May 1978, the BBC returned to the subject, and quoting "informed sources," said that the failure to reach any agreement was not due to minor issues but to major ones.

The BBC Persian programme went on to say:

"The Oil Consortium has asked for an oil services fee of 30¢ per barrel of crude oil, as against the 22¢ per barrel it receives as a discount, which the Consortium officials claim to be reduced to 11¢ per barrel in practice.

"NIOC has not yet agreed to this conversion of the discount into a fee while it has raised its counter-demands concerning firm commitment by the consortium members regarding their oil purchases from Iran. This would require the oil companies to pay compensation to Iran if they fail to purchase the agreed amount."

In its news reports, the BBC has always implied that the position of the oil companies on the international market is now much stronger than a few years ago while the oil exporting countries are in a weaker position--implying that the oil companies' terms should be accepted. However, an Iranian oil official told the daily Ayandegan (1st May 1978), after the collapse of the second round of discussions that the two sides have come "closer to each other but the consortium is yet to announce its final views." He had said that the major issue discussed between the two sides included the consortium commitment for oil purchases, the period of a long-term agreement, the consortium fees and discounts, and the consortium investment in the oil fields.

Moscow Comments

Contrary to the Iranian practice of not commenting on the oil negotiations during the discussions, Moscow Radio not only carried comments but constantly attacked the consortium while urging Iran to completely abrogate the 1973 agreement. Moscow claimed that Iran could directly export and market its crude oil and refined products on the international market and thus "liberate itself from the intermediaries who not only make vast profits but also sabotage the work; and to further consolidate its own economic independence."

Moscow Radio implies that the international oil market is not as tightly knit as the major oil companies would wish one to believe and therefore the oil exporting countries could directly enter the market and not only be in a position to make their oil available cheaply to developing countries but still earn more.

However, Iran takes a more realistic approach and believes that such advice is premature and emotional if not politically biased and ignores the complexities of oil production, distribution and marketing. The major international oil companies not only possess the bulk of the oil shipping but

also of retail outlets. In view of this, it is essential to work with them at least for some time, subject of course to clear and mutually acceptable agreement.

Iran, however, rejects the oil companies' arguments and propaganda about the oil glut which has allegedly strengthened the position of the oil companies and weakens that of the oil exporting countries. Iranian observers maintain that there has been no basic change in the world supply issue in long terms; that oil still remains the world's major source of energy, and that this source is rapidly decreasing. The alleged glut can only be temporary and should not affect long-term arrangements. It is this that helps Iran insist on its terms and believes that even if the current negotiations should continue well into the next summer, a realistic assessment of the situation will persuade the consortium to accept the Iranian view. Iran does not believe that its position is unreasonable.

Meanwhile, NIOC continues with its policy of diversification and expansion of its own fleet in order to further proceed with its direct marketing and sales. As to Iran's dependence on consortium experts, Mr Ansary had already announced, before the start of the second round of negotiations that Iran is determined to completely undertake oil extraction and production without any foreign expert advice by 1982, and certainly not later than 1985.

According to the BBC (19th and 14th March 1978), the current consortium Agreement Area produces 85 percent of Iran's oil. The oil consortium itself exports just over 50 percent of Iran's oil exports.

In the light of Mr. Ansary's declaration, Iran would be able to produce more than 85 percent of its own oil and already exports just under half, either directly or in conjunction with other oil companies with which Iran has a 75-25 percent profit-sharing relationship.

Clearly, Iran is no longer as dependent on the oil consortium as it was in the distant past, and if it gives any discount, it is only in recognition of the consortium being a major and permanent customer. The more NIOC expands its own operations, the less it will need the consortium.

CSO: 4820

FIGURES GIVEN FOR PORT CARGO HANDLING

Teheran IRAN ECONOMIC SERVICE in English 16 May 78 p 15

[Text] Cargo Handling at Iranian Ports

1977-78

<u>Port</u>	<u>Loading*</u>	<u>Unloading*</u>
Bandar Shahpour	415,000	5,640,000
Khorramshahr	186,000	3,860,000
Bandar Abbas	234,000	3,220,000
Abadan	25,000	925,000
Bushire	35,000	864,000
Bandar Pahlavi	70,000	347,000
Nowshahr	5,000	167,000

*Figures rounded up. (Excluding oil)

(Source: Ports & Shipping Organisation, April 1978)

For the first time in decades, Bandar Shahpour handled more cargo than Khorramshahr. Both Bandar Abbas and Bushire showed substantial increase in their handling.

CSO: 4820

RAILWAYS NOTE RECENT LOSSES

Teheran IRAN ECONOMIC SERVICE in English 16 May 78 p 16

[Text] **Iranian Railway Operations, 1976-78**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Investment</u>	<u>Profit or Loss</u>
1976-77	Rls. 19.7 billion	Rls. 539 million Profit
1977-78*	Rls. 27.2 billion	Rls. 943 million Profit
1978-79**	Rls. 46.1 billion	Rls. 193 million Loss

* Estimated

** Projected

(Source: Tehran Economist, 4 March, 1978)

The magazine believes that the Iranian State Railways which operate as a commercial establishment, are inefficient in which there is considerable wastage and not enough public or government control or supervision. The magazine has called for a proper administrative reform in the railways to give it greater dynamism and make it truly profitable.

Other sources have suggested many improvements, such as introduction of commuter trains between Tehran and Karaj. Since a line already exists, there is no reason why such a service cannot be introduced, but the railway authorities have not responded to such public needs.

CSO: 4820

ISRAELI CHARGES AGAINST PLO DENOUNCED

Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 May 78 p 1

[Editorial: "Who Threatens Who?"]

[Text] The past two days have witnessed an intensification of Israeli propaganda against the Palestine Liberation Organization [PLO] and its chairman, Yasir 'Arafat. Begin, the prime minister of Israel, says: "The obstacle to peace is 'Arafat and the charter of the PLO, which demands the elimination of Israel. Under no circumstances will Israel accept the establishment of a Palestinian state, since such a state will expose the people of Israel to danger." Dayan, Peres and Rabin, other Israeli leaders, have also echoed the Begin line by refusing peace with "Arafat and the creation of a Palestinian state. Their declarations, together with Begin's, are beginning to sound like a chorus line. The fact is that all these declarations are old ones and contribute nothing new to the Israeli position. The only purpose of this intensified propaganda campaign is to put the blame for the failure of the peace effort on the PLO and its international and Arab supporters. The PLO is no more guilty of the accusation than the wolf is guilty of shedding the blood of the son of Jacob.

The question we ask the Israelis and others is: Who is threatening Who? Is the PLO with its army and navy threatening Israel, or is it Israel who is threatening the Palestinian people by occupying their land and denying their rights? How can the embryonic state, which does not yet exist, threaten the Israelis? Is it not Israel, whose armed forces occupy the land from the Suez Canal to the Golan Heights, and from southern Lebanon to the banks of the Jordan River, which threatens not just the Palestinians but the Arabs as well?

Playing with words to gain sympathy, however skillfully, will not hide the truth; for people have eyes to see, ears to hear and minds to think.

9063
CSO: 4802

ARABS EXHORTED TO DEFINE GOALS

Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 8 May 78 p 1

[Editorial: "Defining Goals and Priorities"]

[Text] During the earliest stage of the Arab-Zionist conflict, the Arab goal was to prevent by every possible means the creation of an Israeli state on any part of Palestinian territory. Every Palestinian and Arab move at that time was motivated by that goal. For that reason, the Arabs, with a very small minority whose influence was to have no bearing on the conduct of events, absolutely rejected the partition scheme.

The Arab attitude of the time had an emotional, rhetorical texture, and failed to take into account either the internal Arab situation or the Zionist and international realities. In short, it failed to grasp the realities of history or to anticipate future events. Nationalistic sentiment and patriotic emotion won the day over the bare facts of the situation. It is easy for us now to see this in retrospect, but was not so at the time. The Arabs had such faith in the rightness of their cause as to reject any compromise settlement. Many in fact professed in a burst of emotion that they would rather surrender all of Palestine to the Zionists than give up any part of it. Developments since then have brought us where we are today. The situation we are in was, in fact, inescapable, not because lady luck had betrayed us, or that God had forsaken us, not because everyone had conspired against us or that we had become the victims of some treachery, but because the collision of the Arab, Zionist and international forces and the effects of the internal situation of both the Arabs and the Zionists were bound to have very specific and predictable consequences, the very ones we face today. We waged our battle convinced that the rightness of our cause would triumph in the end, and ignored all else. The Zionists, on the other hand, prepared and organized for every eventuality. And while the Zionists leaders never hid the fact that their ambitions encompassed all of Palestine, they accepted the partition scheme and the Arabs rejected it.

We review our past experience as 15 May [anniversary of the creation of Israel] approaches not in order to blame the leaders and the people of influence of that period of our history, but to learn a lesson from our past.

A wise man learns by the experience of others and would be remiss not to learn from his own experience. The first lesson to be learned from past Palestinian experience is that defining one's goal objectively and dispassionately is the first step toward achieving that goal. Otherwise one would be left stabbing in the dark, demanding more of one's capacities than can be handled, retreating more often, and at the very least sacrificing one's momentary gains.

The aim of the present stage, as we see it, should be to eliminate the consequences of the June war. Any mixing of priorities will only serve to confuse the goal and bring us back to the old maze. The termination of occupation, which ought to be the first and last goal of the present stage, is no simple matter. The obstacles in the path to this goal are obstinate in the extreme. They are very well known, as the expert Begin can testify. It would be a waste of Arab time and energy, particularly Palestinian energy, to divert attention to a different goal at this time. The most important priority, and a difficult one at that, is the termination of occupation.

9063

CSO: 4802

JORDAN

BRIEFS

INDUSTRIAL PROJECT FUNDING -- Amman -- JNA -- In the session it held at noon yesterday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mudar Badran, the Council of Ministers approved the recommendations of the Ministry of Industry and Trade to set up nine economic projects. The costs of these projects are estimated at approximately 15 million dinars. The projects approved by the Committee to Encourage Investment include an automatic aluminum plant with costs estimated at 4 million dinars, a cables project to produce copper cables and insulated electric wiring with costs exceeding one million dinars, the dry batteries project with costs exceeding 1.5 million dinars, the Amman Sheraton Hotel with a capital of one million dinars, in addition to other projects, including the project to produce plastic covers for agricultural purposes, automatic bakeries and a carbon industry. The council also agreed to exempt five projects from customs fees, importation fees and taxes and to consider these projects economic projects. These projects include the plastic mats industry, wooden blinds, lamp bases and shades, electricity boxes and cement industries. The council also discussed the pending issues to complete and expand 26 existing projects already considered economic projects. [Text] [Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Apr 78 p 2] 8494

CSO: 4802

LEBANON

STATEMENT OF PRO-SYRIAN FRONT REPORTED

Beirut L'ORIENT-LE JOUR in French 26 Apr 78 p 2

[Article: "Meeting at Burj Abi-Haydar: The directors of the Pro-Syrian 'Front' adopt a waiting attitude"]

[Text] The central command of the "Lebanese National Progressive Front" (Pro-Syrian) [FPNL] met yesterday at its headquarters in Burj Abi-Haydar, with Kamal Shatila presiding. In attendance were 'Asim Qansuh (Baas), 'Isam Mahayiri (PPS), Samir Tarabulsi (UFPT) [expansion unknown] and 'Abdullah Al-Amin (Baas). Local developments were reviewed, then the participants issued a communique showing in substance that they are in favor of the defense of the Palestinian cause, with respect to the Cairo accord, but they are also in favor of Lebanese legitimacy. They concluded by announcing that their adoption of a definite position will be proclaimed in the light of parliamentary debates on the decisive options concerning the country.

The text of the communique issued by the FPNL follows:

The National Front wishes to reaffirm its fundamental positions which are as follows:

--The necessity for a comprehensive national agreement for proceeding from anarchy to unity, from national partition to national cohesion. This should be in accord with the constitutional statement of President Sarkis and with the positive ideas of the "constitutional document": which should be the political platform of the national agreement, insofar as the majority of Lebanese support it.

Priority

--The Front emphasizes that priority of political action must be directed toward countering the Israeli occupation and preventing the unwarranted interference of the Israelis in the internal affairs of the country. The Front considers Resolution 425 of the Security Council to be an important instrument for obtaining the Israeli retreat and the return of Lebanese authority and law to the South.

"--The Front reaffirms its adherence to Lebanon taking account of the unity of the Arab destiny.

"--From this time on, the PLO is the legal representative of the Palestinian people, and solidarity with the PLO is required of all Arabs according to their capabilities. The Front does not wish to involve the Resistance in the details of Lebanese internal affairs and does not wish the Resistance to be used to disturb the Lebanese political equilibrium. The Palestinian struggle must continue to be directed against Zionism.

The Cairo Accord

"--However, in distinguishing between the specifics of the Palestinian cause and those of the Lebanese cause, the Front reaffirms the legitimacy of the Palestinian presence in Lebanon and the right of the PLO to exercise its rights in agreement with the Cairo accord and with its amendments, concluded with Lebanese approval. No one has the right to abrogate unilaterally what has been decided legally through the resolutions of the Riyadh and Cairo summit meetings.

"--The Front reaffirms the importance of seeking Lebanese authority reestablished over the entire territory and of imposing its authority on all irregular factions, armed or not, which have come out of the two years war.

"--The Front is freezing its position concerning the motion of the parliamentary committee while awaiting clarification of the official Lebanese position on that score, and for completion of the dealings which are underway are underway with all concerned factions.

"--The Front calls for the treatment of contingent problems with an authentic national spirit, far-removed from subversive methods and within the framework of the struggle for the unity of Arabic and non-denominational Lebanon."

9174
CSO: 4800

LEBANON

GOALS OF SHI'ITE PARLIAMENTARY GROUPING DESCRIBED

Beirut AL-'AMAL in Arabic 5 Apr 78 p 4

[Interview with Shi'ite Deputy Mahmud 'Ammar from al-Jabal, by Antoine Busbus]

[Text] [Question] Does the failure on the part of the Shi'ites of Jabal 'Amil to dust themselves off and rise up against the Palestinian occupation stem from historical causes connected with the fact that Jabal 'Amil is a region which was, for a long period of time, under Ottoman control and had no intimate knowledge of freedom the way al-Jabal had, or does it stem from the political traditions prevailing up to the present in this region?

[Answer] With regard to the antecedents of the Shi'ite awareness of the Palestinian menace, our position in al-Jabal and our presence here has given us the opportunity to express our fears about the Palestinian presence before other Shi'ite deputies. Besides, Shi'ite deputies of the South who live in al-Jabal, foremost among who are President al-As'ad and Kazim al-Khalik, like the deputies of al-Jabal themselves, are aware of this danger and caution against it.

After the revolt of their Imam al-Husayn against the Ummiads, the Shi'ites were immersed in a struggle of oppression during various epochs. However, the position in Lebanon was different because of the divisions which existed within the Shi'ite leadership, due to leftist propaganda which made the Shi'ites in Lebanon think the Maronite uprising was aimed at them. The acts to extinguish their identity, which the leftists concocted and accused the Christians of perpetrating, created an atmosphere of doubt and suspicion among the Shi'ites.

The new Shi'ite position, which was crystallized in the first communique of the national parliamentary grouping, is very close to the position of the Lebanese Front. It almost corresponds to the Front position. In the first communique, an armed Palestinian presence was rejected if it was

not in the context of overall Arab strategy. The communique held this presence responsible for the loss of the South, and accused the Palestinians of offering Israel the territory of the South on a silver platter.

Everyone, and especially the Sunni Moslems, should adopt a clear, candid position on the sudden menace stemming from the armed Palestinian presence which hurts the South, Lebanon and Palestine.

The region between the Litani River and the Zahran River and the city of Tyre should be under the authority of international forces, so that the presence of Palestinians in these areas does not give cause for a second Israeli attack, leading to the occupation of more land, the explosion of more people and more destruction.

[Question] What delayed the grouping of Shi'ite deputies until after the fall of the South, and what is the strategy of the national parliamentary grouping?

[Answer] There is no doubt that the delay in the joining of forces of Shi'ite deputies was the result of heightened personal differences among their leaders. There had long been an attempt to join forces, but foreign interference and personal factors always prevented the realization of this goal.

In cooperation with my colleague Deputy Rafiq Shahin, I tried, approximately 1 month before the devastation to unite Shi'ite deputies, especially in view of the fact that I expected the South to fall victim to the acts being carried out on its territory and hurting its people.

First we met with Deputy Kazim al-Khalil and presented our idea. He welcomed it and supported it without any reservations. Then we made a visit to President al-As'ad and told him of the idea to unite ranks and join the forces of the Shi'ite deputies. He supported our efforts in principle, but pointed out that such a grouping could harm the situation in the South, because the South is now in need of national, pan-Arab support, and the creation of such a grouping as this might be interpreted as being for the South. I explained to him that this grouping would not be concerned with the South alone, but would have a national character and would be preoccupied with the matters of destiny which have arisen in Lebanon today. If all Lebanese united on matters of destiny and on the problem of the South, we hoped to dispense with our grouping. However, logic dictates that if union with others is not possible, then at least let us Shi'ites unite. Circumstances were such that the mother of President al-As'ad fell ill and died, and then came the Israeli destruction of the territory of the South. Our efforts were delayed for some time, but Dr Rafiq Shahin and I were determined to continue the attempt at

unification. We paid a visit to President al-As'ad and Shi'ite deputies and succeeded in reaching agreement on the meeting which took place. That is how we tried to create a grouping. We would have liked it to include non-Shi'ite elements. However, I can confirm that this grouping, and I am concerned with the South in particular, will deal with matters of destiny and fundamental national problems in all its discussion. Also, this grouping will carry high the slogan of total allegiance to Lebanon. The strategy of this grouping springs from its goals and objectives. It is determined to contact all Lebanese factions in order to join forces, unite ranks and discuss the matters of destiny which have been raised, through allegiance and loyalty to Lebanon. It has actually begun to act by contacting certain political figures in Lebanese parties in order to arrive at a sound, clear view and work to achieve it.

We Beg the Sunnis To Take a Unified Stand on Palestinians

[Question] You mesh with the Lebanese Front in your position on the South. Where does the Islamic Union stand on this problem?

[Answer] We say that the South is part of Lebanon and that the loss of this part will inevitably lead to the loss of the nation as a whole. We also say that the South lives and endures only as the rest of Lebanon lives and endures. The people of the South, and particularly the people of Jabal 'Amil, as we call them, have glorious pages in the history of Lebanon showing their faith in and allegiance to the land in which they live. We will join with any Lebanese who believes in these principles and values, and we will disagree with any Lebanese who does not concur with us in this belief. Therefore, today we implore Lebanese, our Sunni Moslem brothers in particular, to have a clear, candid position with regard to the danger threatening the territory of the South and all of Lebanon, due to the armed Palestinian presence which hurts not only the South and Lebanon, but the Palestinian cause itself.

Shi'ites Are Aware of Danger

[Question] It has been noted that the Shi'ites of Jabal 'Amil perceived the Palestinian menace before the Shi'ites of the South themselves or the Shi'ites of B'albak. What is the explanation for this?

[Answer] I have already said that the Shi'ites in Lebanon are not less loyal or faithful than other Lebanese. I will now say that about the Maronites also. My colleagues, the deputies of al-Jabal, and I did not in fact realize the danger before everyone else. However, our position in al-Jabal and our presence here gave us the opportunity to express ourselves before other Shi'ite deputies, even before the Shi'ite deputies who were living in Jabal Lubnan, whether they were from the South or the

Biqa'. Foremost among these are President Kamil al-As'ad and Kazim al-Khalil. Like the deputies of al-Jabal, they were aware of this danger and cautioned against it.

It may be concluded from all this that the Shi'ites delayed in expressing their allegiance only because the circumstances in which they were living and the intellectual terrorism inflicted on them prevented them from expressing their opinion. Here they are now going forth with a loud, clear, distinct voice to proclaim their anger and resentment over any act which hurts legitimacy in Lebanon. They are demonstrating for the state to extend its authority over their lands, not disgusted by experience, but believing in their nation.

Internacional Left Has Deluded Certain Shi'ites

[Question] The history of the Shi'ites in the Islamic world has been characterized by revolts against injustice and despotism. In your opinion, what has prevented an uprising in Lebanon against this injustice and despotism? Is this connected with the existing religious leadership?

[Answer] It's true that after the revolt of their Imam al-Husayn against the Ummiads, the Shi'ites engaged in a battle against injustice during various epochs, and in this cause they suffered wrongs. They were not able to attain power because of their revolutionary doctrine and their fight against all kinds of oppression. However, their stand with regard to the recent upheaval in Lebanon was completely different, because of the divisions existing within the Shi'ite leadership in Lebanon and the distortion of the revolt of the Lebanese, due to the propaganda and means utilized by both the domestic left and the international left. These leftists were able to make the Shi'ites in Lebanon think that the Maronite revolt was aimed at them. The acts extinguishing their identity, which the leftists concocted and accused the Christians of perpetrating, created an atmosphere of doubt and suspicion about the Lebanese revolt. This led the Shi'ites to refrain from any revolutionary action until positions crystallized, the facts came out and it became known that the Lebanese, on the contrary, were rebelling for a cause, for legitimacy and for the extension of authority over Lebanese territory. At that time, the Shi'ites felt they had been deceived and that their interests required their stand on legitimacy to be clear and distinct. They passed judgment on all the acts which led to the Lebanese catastrophe caused by foreigners and the international left which was aiming at the establishment of a communist Palestinian state in Lebanon.

[Question] When is the "Palestinian file" session, and will the attitude of the Shi'ite deputies toward the problem be the same as that of a mother toward her son or a father toward his child?

Palestinians Offered Territory of South to Israelis

[Answer] The "Palestinian file" was brought up the day the cabinet made the proposal, which was opposed by certain people who considered it a proposal representing one point of view. President al-As'ad said that a proposal in the other direction, in other words, with regard to the "Palestinian file," would be issued at an appropriate time.

The stand of Shi'ite deputies on this file was clear and evident in the first communique issued by their grouping. It made clear that they accepted an armed Palestinian presence in Lebanon only within the context of overall Arab strategy. They went even further in their communique and held this presence responsible for losing the South, and accused it of offering Israel the territory of the South on a silver platter.

[Question] What will be the fate of the area between the two occupied rivers (the Zahrani and the Litani), and what will be the fate of Tyre in the next few days?

[Answer] In the communique, which we made public, we demanded that the international emergency forces take charge of supervising the territory in the South which the Arab deterrent forces have not been able to reach, until the time when Lebanese authorities can extend their control over this territory. We have thus demanded that the fate of the area between the two rivers be temporarily entrusted to the international forces.

There is all the more reason for the city of Tyre to be under control of the emergency forces, too. This is what we demanded, for fear that if Tyre remained in the hands of the Palestinians, it would give Israel a new pretext justifying a second attack, God forbid, and lead to banishment, destruction and desolation.

[Question] If the execution of this plan were impossible, would the Shi'ites in Lebanon get together and take their fate in their own hands, out of the hands of any occupation force?

[Answer] Imam Musa al-Sadr answered this question in a Friday sermon when he said, "Only the people of the land, that is the South, have the right to liberate their land from any occupying invader." This means that if it is impossible to restore sovereign power over the land, the people of the South will be forced to try to liberate it themselves, and they will never hesitate to do this. They will be supported by Shi'ites everywhere in Lebanon.

We Are Living Our Most Dangerous Days

[Question] What do the next few days hold for Lebanon in light of Lebanese, Arab and Middle East developments?

[Answer] I think we are living our most dangerous and precarious days, because of the circumstances and relations surrounding our cause, whether internal, Arab or international. I therefore put my hand on my heart and pray to God to protect Lebanon in this crucial period from the evil of the strangers, the greedy and the envious. Lebanon is threatened today in its very essence and in its destiny. If we are not sufficiently conscious, responsible and aware, and if we do not work to foil the plots being hatched against us, then our future will be dark, and only God will know our fate.

7811

CSO: 4802

MARONITE SYNOD CONDEMNS PRESENCE OF GUERRILLAS

Beirut L'ORIENT LE JOUR in French 23 Apr 78 pp 1, 12

[Text] Bishops Request the State To Make the Arab League and the UN Accept Their Responsibilities

The synod of the Maronite bishops, meeting yesterday with His Beatitude Antonius Butrus Khuraysh, in a communique issued at Beirut, advocated the prohibition by the Lebanese Government of the presence of all guerrilla forces in Lebanon, "because they are injurious to the sovereignty of the state and threaten the existence of the country."

At the end of the work of the annual session, the synod invited the Lebanese state to "use all means to arrive at this goal, in particular to make the Arab League, and the UN live up to their responsibilities regarding the safeguarding of Lebanon's security, ... a member of these two organizations."

Recalling the problem of the Palestinian presence in Lebanon, the synod emphasized "that it is unjust for the settlement of one country's problem to be made at the expense of other countries."

On the other hand, he invited Lebanese politicians to "show more discretion and to forget their bitterness, in order to safeguard the fatherland." He also proclaimed his "absolute attachment to the unity of the land and of the people and to a democratic, free and just form of government in Lebanon."

The Communiqué

The patriarchal synod was held at Skirki from 16 to 22 April, bringing the Maronite bishops together for their annual spiritual retreat.

They proceeded to the examination of questions of interest to the Maronite church in particular and to Lebanon in general. At the conclusion of their deliberations, they issued the following declaration:

"On the Ecclesiastical Level

"The patriarchal synod has

"1--after expiration, on the 4th of this month, of the mandate of the members of the permanent synod, which is the agency charged with assisting the Patriarch in the administration of the affairs of the patriarchy, named for a period of 5 years, the new members of this synod;

"2--reorganized the liturgical commission by adding new members to it to whom it must entrust duties to be carried out within established time periods following a specific program;

"3--continued the study of questions concerning both small and large seminaries with the intention of assuring the seminarians a better priestly education;

"4--asked the Maronite Office of Planning and Development, an agency under its jurisdiction, to furnish financial aid to the victims of the incidents at 'Ayn al-Rummanah.

"On the National Level

"1--The difficult days through which the Lebanese have just lived as wr 1 as the harsh events which followed upon the invasion of south Lebanon until the arrival of UN forces, the deterioration of the state of security, the failure of attempts to examine the fundamental problems and the resignation of the government, all of these actions force the Lebanese to face their responsibilities and warn them of the critical choices they must make. Through their carelessness and their bitterness, they can head toward their own destruction, or with foresightedness and prudence, they can pick themselves up, close ranks, and reconstruct their country, thereby saving their fatherland and their future.

"2--The blind bombardment of 'Ayn al-Rummanah with heavy weapons and napalm bombs directed against the unarmed population—old people, women and children which destroyed homes over the heads of their inhabitants--leaves in every heart a painful feeling of anger and rebellion, bringing each one to ask himself in all conscience: what do I wish to make of Lebanon after this wave of violence and injustice and this series of events, varying from one region to the other, of provocations and aggressions, making innocent victims of citizens used to living together in a climate of cooperation and peace?

"3--Any armed force on Lebanese territory which is not under the control of the state is a danger to the sovereignty of the state and to its dignity, a threat to its existence, and an unceasing source of anxiety to the citizens for their lives and their possessions. Disregarding this presence or accepting it makes any declaration in favor of Lebanese unity, of its

territory and of its people, which may proceed from individuals, from groups, or from governments, purely a matter of words which are only a way of parodying the truth, evading duty and accepting injustice. This is why the state must devote itself to working with all means at its disposal to put an end to this armed presence by making the Arab League and the UN face their responsibilities which require them to protect their members and to insure the safety of Lebanon in the area and in the world. In fact, nothing is more unjust than to make amends for one injustice by committing another.

"4--In evaluating the statement of his eminence the president of the republic in which he promised to compensate the relatives of the victims, to aid the wounded, to repair the damages and to assign responsibilities, the patriarchal synod hopes that this declaration will be put into effect in the shortest time. It also hopes that the reconciliation which has taken place among politicians will lead to their taking positive and constructive positions and will hasten the formation of a government capable of putting the country back on its feet with the help of its vital forces.

"4 [sic]--Proclaiming its attachment to the unity of the territory for the people, and for a free and equitable democratic regime in Lebanon, the patriarchal synod invites all Lebanese to put aside dissension, to renounce private interests and to place their loyalty to Lebanon above any other loyalty. The synod addresses an urgent appeal to all Lebanese, residents and emigres, to support the state, and to help, morally and materially, with all means at their disposal in order that, under very difficult circumstances, it can assume its responsibilities toward the fatherland, the citizens and history.

"The members of the patriarchal synod, who have just spent a week in prayer and meditation, beg God to grant a speedy recovery to the wounded, to welcome in His mercy the souls of the victims and to console the hearts of the afflicted, inviting all Lebanese to return to God, to become more thoroughly interested in religious instruction, to cling to spiritual values and to make their conduct conform to them, with the intention of spreading peace throughout the country and contributing to the work of restoring the nation's health. They address themselves to all men, asking them to send up to the Lord fervent prayers so that the forces of good may triumph over the forces of evil and that Lebanon may be lifted up again and may find strength, peace and security."

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CSO: 4800

LEBANON

BRIEFS

ARMY RECRUITMENT--The Department of Defense, Army command, announces that it has decided to resume army recruitment through a commission which will travel throughout the Lebanese territory beginning 5 Aug 78. Volunteers are being called as privates in the administrative services of the army. Conditions for enlistment are as follows: --Must be a Lebanese citizen for 10 years; --Must be between 18 and 25 years of age; --Must be at least 160 cm tall; --Must not be the subject of any conviction nor have served more than three months in prison. In addition, the following documents must be submitted: --Identity card with authenticated passport photo; --Civil certificate proving that the applicant has been a Lebanese citizen for more than 10 years; --Certification of family situation by a mukhtar; --Three 4x4 passport photos, bare-headed, two front-face, and one in profile. The campaign schedule is as follows: 8 and 9 May, Beirut, Post Command Headquarters, 10 May Bayt Al-Din, 11 May Sarba, 12 May Ablah, 15 May Sidon, 16 May Qartaba, 17 May Batrun, Serail, 18 May Kusba, 19 May Tripoli, army barracks, 22 and 23 May Beirut, 24 May Hammana. [Text] {Beirut L'ORIENT-LE JOUR in French 25 Apr 78 p 12] 9174

CSO: 4800

AFGHANS SAID TO FOLLOW LIBYAN EXAMPLE

Valletta THE JAMAHIRIYA MAIL in English 20 May 78 p 3

[Text] Foreign Secretary Dr Ali Treiki, has returned to Tripoli after a two-day visit to Afghanistan at the head of a delegation. During his visit he had talks with Afghani officials on consolidating bilateral relations in all fields to achieve all the interests of the two brotherly countries.

Whilst in Afghanistan, the Foreign Secretary had a ninety minute meeting with the head of the revolutionary council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, Mr Nur Muhammad Treiki, and the Afghani Prime Minister.

The meeting was also attended by the director of the Asian administration at the Foreign Secretariat and the Ambassador of the Jamahiriya to Kabul.

Mr Nur expressed his profound esteem for the Al-Fateh Revolution and its leader, Col Gathafi, and said that this visit would consolidate the Afghani revolution and that the Afghani people appreciate the visit, and the support of the Fateh revolution for the Afghani revolution.

Mr Nur briefed Dr Treiki on the latest developments in Afghanistan and the cause which led to the revolution. He also expressed his confidence in the experiment of direct popular government achieved by the Fateh revolution affirming that Afghanistan would follow its example.

The head of the revolutionary council affirmed that the revolution stems from the people and that it would adopt a non-aligned policy to achieve the interests of the Afghani people. He also asserted that the imperialists' attempts to slander the Afghani revolution are false and groundless and that the Afghani people is aware of the danger of these rumours.

During the meeting Mr Nur asked Dr Treiki to convey his greetings to Col. Gathafi and reaffirmed that the Afghani revolution would strongly oppose Zionism, imperialism and colonialism and would fully support the Fateh revolution in its struggle to achieve the ambitions of the people in reaching independence.

The Foreign Secretary also conferred with the Deputy Chairman of the Afghani Revolutionary Council and Deputy Prime Minister Mr Babrak Karmel who expressed the appreciation of the Al-ghani revolution and the Revolutionary Council for the

backing of the Parch革命 for the Afghani revolution.

He went on to say that they highly valued the support of the Jamahiriya because of its influence on the world and its pioneering role in the liberation struggle.

While in Kabul Dr Treiki also met separately with the Defence Minister, Col. Abdel Kader, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Mr Hafez Amin Allah and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport, Major Muhammad Aslam.

The Ministers said that the unity of the two revolutions would support the people's struggle against imperialism and the racist zionism.

During a stopover in Islamabad, Pakistan, Dr Treiki met twice with Muhammad General Zia Al-Haq, the general military ruler of Pakistan, with whom he discussed bilateral relations and the ways and means to consolidate them in the interests of the people in the two brotherly countries.

General Zia Al-Haq gave a luncheon in honour of the Foreign Secretary and his delegation.

In Bahrain, Dr Treiki met Muhammad Al-Khalifa, the Bahraini Foreign Minister, with whom he discussed ways to develop and consolidate bilateral relations.

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LIBYAN BLUEPRINT FOR SOCIALISM

Valetta THE JAMAHIRIYA MAIL in English 22 Apr 78 p 3

[Text] Mr Ahmad Shahati, Chairman of the Foreign Liaison Bureau and Mr Bahlan Butrus, Secretary of the World Peace Council have held a Press conference at the People's Hall in Tripoli, on the occasion of the International Conference for Development and Co-operation.

Mr Shahati explained the reasons for which the international conference for development and co-operation was being held, and said it was supported by the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the World Peace Council, in order to find an ideal formula for international co-operation in economic, social and political development.

Mr Shahati said that ever since the great Al-Fateh revolution the Jamahiriya had considered political and economic liberation and social and economic development to be a priority, in view of the link between economic and political development, and the attainment of world peace.

"The Socialist line is the line which has brought about development and there can be no development which meets the aspirations of our people unless it is under Socialism."

The Secretary of the World Peace Council said: "This conference is the second largest in order of importance, on the methods of achieving international development and co-operation, and it is regarded as a scientifically accurate indication of international public opinion upon the questions of development and its problems in the third world.

"We, of the World Peace Council are greatly concerned with the problem of development. Peace and development cannot be isolated from each other and our struggle in the World Peace Council is a struggle against imperialism and colonialism."

Picture above [not reproduced] shows delegates during the actual conference, a fuller report of which will be carried in next week's issue.

TIES WITH MAURITANIA STRENGTHENED

Visit by President

Valletta THE JAMAHIRIYA MAIL in English 22 Apr 78 p 2

[Text] Libyan and Mauritania relations were given a boost following President Oul Dada's official Jamahiriya visit earlier this week. During his three-day stay, the Mauritania leader discussed many important issues with Revolution leader Col Muammar Gathafi and high-ranking government officials.

A joint communique issued after the visit spoke of "coordination between the two countries to sustain the Afro-Arab cause." Strong condemnation was voiced against "continuous Zionist aggression geared at the annihilation of the Palestinian people." The two leaders confirmed their support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in its efforts to establish a Palestinian state.

In an obvious reference to the Rhodesian and South African regimes, the communique said: "The two parties renew their strong condemnation of the policy of racial discrimination in Africa." Peace feelers were put out concerning the Horn of Africa and the recent fighting between Ethiopian and Somalia troops.

The Jamahiriya has been successful in bringing about national reconciliation in Chad and similar moves might be attempted in the Horn. The peace achievement in Chad was described as "an example of the way to solve African problems without foreign intervention."

Adherence to United Nations' resolutions on racism was reaffirmed by both countries as was neutrality and determination to counter imperialism. Both sides called for the setting up of a new economic order to "achieve the legitimate objectives of developing countries and full control of their natural resources."

During President Oul Dada's stay, official talks were held at Tripoli's People's Palace to discuss bilateral points in economic development.

Col Gathafi led the Jamahiriya side and President Oul Dada the Mauritania side. The meetings were behind closed doors.

Problems

President Oul Dada was given an official send-off at Tripoli International Airport. Major Jalloud headed the well-wishers which included General People's Committee Chairman Ubeidi. Talking to reporters before departure, the Mauritania leader said "bilateral discussions and continental problems were tackled and the visit has been very successful."

Oul Dada cabled Col Gathafi from Mauritania expressing admiration for the Revolution's achievements. He noted satisfaction over the talks and the impact they will have in strengthening relations. He also noted that Afro-Arab cooperation would be improved.

Mauritania: Friendly Country

Valletta THE JAMAHIRIYA MAIL in English 29 Apr 78 p 5

[Text] Mauritania is situated in the North West of Africa, adjacent to Morocco and Algeria to the North, Mali to the East, Senegal to the South and the Atlantic Ocean to the West. Its total area is 1,128,700 square km. and its population is 2 million. Mauritania was previously known as the land of the veiled ones referring to the "Maurabiteen" who spread out from there to Morocco and Andalusia, in the 5th century A.H.

It was also called "Shanqit" after a city which used to be the cultural centre of the whole area. European colonialists arrived in the area at the beginning of this century and dominated it.

However, they failed to convert the people to their faith and culture. The inhabitants adhered to their Arabic language and to their Islamic religion consequently retaining strong feelings of support for the Islamic and Arabic nation.

Wealth

The country mainly depends on its animal resources and the agricultural produce of the southern and eastern districts. The country's wealth has been affected to a great extent by the severe drought which hit it in 1972. Mauritania also has considerable wealth in its fisheries, and iron and copper mines in the Northern area.

The government of Mauritania is encouraging land reclamation by planting large areas on the banks of the Senegal river.

Industries have been established, such as an oil refinery, sugar, textile and fish factories.

There are plans for setting up steel, iron and copper factories as well as other light industries. Mauritania has nationalised the companies with monopolies in iron and copper, thus putting an end to all foreign monopolies.

The creation of a national currency "the Ofio" and the abandoning of the Franc, have marked the beginning of Mauritania's control over its wealth and a start upon the road towards national independence.

Immigration

Regarding Libyan-Mauritanian relations, the Mauritanian historian Professor Mukhtar Wild Hamed, has pointed out in one of his research studies that Mauritanian tribes had immigrated to Libya during the 8th and 9th centuries A.D. This confirms the relationship which exists between many of the tribes who have common names and customs, like the tribe of Musa Al-Ujailat Suleiman Al-Turshan, Yousef, and Yakub Astilat.

Many works by Libyan scholars have become known in Mauritania, such as "Lisan Al-Arab" by Zarrouk Al Khattab Ibn Mansur. Libya was the country of transit for Mauritanian pilgrims who stayed over after performing the pilgrimage to Mecca. For example the scholar, Al-Haj Ahmad Bin Al-Haj Al-Amin died in Fezzan. Many other men of letters who made the pilgrimage wrote about Libya, like Muhammad Ibn Al-Ghazali in 1337 A.H.

When the Al-Fateh revolution was launched, the Jamahiriya, for the first time, recognised the Republic of Mauritania, and Mauritania was one of the first Arab countries which recognised the new revolutionary order.

The first Libyan Arab diplomatic delegation arrived in Mauritania on March 17, 1970 to open an embassy. On May 11, 1970 President Muktar Oul Dada paid a visit to the Jamahiriya.

During August 1970 the first Mauritanian ambassador in Tripoli handed in his credentials to Colonel Muammar Al Gathafi.

From February 15 to 20, 1972, Col. Gathafi, the leader of the Al-Fateh revolution, paid a visit to Mauritania. He visited Itar, Botelmeet and Nwadibo, as well as the capital. From then on, fruitful and constructive contacts had started between the two brotherly countries. Col. Gathafi and President Al Muktar formed a brotherly relationship which enabled them to build constructive cooperation between the two countries and the Arab and African countires, and to coordinate their policies in several fields.

Libya has given to Mauritania important aid, in the form of long term loans and financial aid in order to execute some projects such as an Arab secondary school in Nouakchott and an electricity and water plant, and to regenerate the cultural heritage.

The two countries are linked to each other by four agreements:

1. A consular agreement which exempts the citizens of the two countries from visas and allows them to work on an equal footing as the citizens of the other country.
2. A cultural agreement.
3. A technical cooperation agreement.
4. An economic agreement.

It is known that many Mauritanian citizens have graduated from Libyan universities and institutes and many of them are still continuing their studies in the Jamahiriya.

There are about 5,000 Mauritanian citizens in the Jamahiriya who are working as Imam in Mosques, teachers of the Koran, lecturers, doctors, technicians and manual workers.

Recently two Libyan-Mauritanian companies for maritime fishing and agriculture were established.

The cooperation between the two countries is supervised by a joint committee which meets twice a year in Tripoli and Nouakchott.

CSO: 4820

LIBYAN-AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY ESTABLISHED

Valletta THE JAMAHIRIYA MAIL in English 6 May 78 p 6

[Text] On the occasion of establishment of the Libyan-Australian Friendly Association, a reception was held at Al-Jazirah palace in Benghazi recently. On the Australian side it was attended by the Premier of South Australia Mr Donald Dunstan and Mr Bill Hartley, the member of the Australian Labour Parties' Federal Conference.

On the Jamahiriya's side it was attended by the Head of the Bureau of Unions and Associations in the General Secretariat of the People's Conference, Mr Mohamad Hijazi, and the Chairman of the Executive Committee for the Green Mountain agricultural area, and Mr Bashir Joudeh, the Libyan Chairman of the Libyan-Australian Association, and the Secretary-General of the People's Conference for the Municipality of Benghazi by the members of the Liaison Office in the General Secretariat of the People's Conference and the members of the People's Conferences of the Municipality of Benghazi.

Speeches were delivered by the Libyan Chairman of the Association, Mr Joudeh, and his Australian counterpart Mr Hartley, and a representative of the liaison office, in which they stressed the importance of friendship between peoples for achieving cooperation, brotherhood and peace.

At the end of the reception, the Prime Minister of South Australia said, "We are very pleased to be establishing this association through which we can share all services and experiences with the friendly people of Libya, thus strengthening by action not words, economical and agricultural cooperation, which will be proved by our discussions in the next two days."

The Head of the Unions and Associations of the General Secretariat of the People's Conference, Mr Hijazi confirmed the Jamahiriya's concern for friendly associations with the people and countries of the world and, for its belief in these associations, important role in the relations between the two countries.

He added: "While we are establishing a new association between the Jamahiriya and the people of Australia, we are taking a significant step towards establishing relationships in various fields, especially after both sides have exchanged visits these enabled the people of the Jamahiriya to get to know the habits and traditions of the Australian people, and the Australian people to become acquainted with our civilisation, culture achievements in various fields, and the rapid development the Jamahiriya is witnessing."

Mr Hijazi asked the Australian members of the Association to publicize in Australia the Arab nation's struggle for liberation, and to put an end to the Zionist falsification of the Arab struggle.

CSO: 4820

IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH TUNISIA

Valletta THE JAMAHIRIYA MAIL in English 20 May 78 p 1

[Text] A joint communique has been issued in Tripoli and Tunis after the Tunisian Prime Minister, Hedi Nouira's visit to the Jamahiriya.

During his visit, Mr. Nouira met Staff Major Abdussalam Jalloud, member of the Permanent Secretariat of the General People's Congress and Major Khweildf Al-Hemeidi, member of the Permanent Secretariat of the General People's Congress and the leader of the Popular Resistance. Their talks covered the strengthening and support of relations between the two countries.

In a friendly atmosphere, the two delegations, headed by Mr. Nouira and Mr. Obeidi, the Head of the General People's Committee of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, held important talks.

At the end of the talks, they signed the minutes of the meeting which included:

--Increasing the existing co-operation in Agriculture.

--Continuing the efforts to complete the technical and economic studies concerning the projects of telecommunication and land and sea transportation.

--Continuing the efforts to strengthen industrial co-operation between the two countries.

--Increasing trade exchange between the two countries.

--Strengthening co-operation in the field of professional training and employment.

--Facilitating the residence and movement of the citizens of the two countries.

The two countries also signed an agreement to avoid double payment of income tax which was signed as a draft agreement on the 28th of [sentence incomplete].

It was also decided that the supreme committee would hold its next session in Tunisia next December to continue the efforts to strengthen the co-operation between the two brotherly countries.

CSO: 4820

MISSION OF GREEN BOOK DISCUSSED

Valletta THE JAMAHIRIYA MAIL in English 13 May 78 p 4

[Speech by Louis Eakes, editor of FREE PALESTINE, a magazine published in London: "'Green Book' Concepts Not Merely Academic"]

[Text] This is the introductory speech made by Mr Louis Eakes at the recent seminar on "The Green Book" held in Kensington, London. Mr Eakes is the editor of FREE PALESTINE, a magazine published in London.

The hostility of the press towards Libya, which in part reflects the attitude of the British Government, is largely due to the fact that Britain's imperial role in the Middle East was upset by the September Revolution in 1969.

With the issues of devolution to Scotland and Wales, and power sharing in Northern Ireland in the news, it is particularly relevant that we consider Gaddafi's "Green Book," and the Libyan experience in democracy.

The Libyan Revolution is about power sharing and devolution of power. It is about "People's Power." In fact, the Libyan Revolution is one of the few, if not the only, revolutions which was more than an exchange of people in power.

It is a Revolution in the sense that it is a concept of permanent revolution. It is a Revolution in the sense that it is aimed at giving power to the people, rather than to a military elite.

Some people might point out that Col. Gaddafi led the Revolution and is still effectively in power. That is not disputed, but it cannot be accepted out of context. The Libyan Revolution has begun and it is a new concept in terms of democracy.

No other government has actively urged its people to seize power for themselves. Yet this was precisely what the Libyan leaders have done.

Firstly, with the call from Col. Gaddafi and Premier Jalloud for Libyans to seize ports, towns and villages. It was a call for students power, and workers control. It was a concept of revolution in its truest sense.

From "Popular Committees" came the formation of local conferences and the National Council, representing all forms of opinions, from all walks of life, and all levels of society.

The concepts put forward in Gaddafi's "Green Book" are, therefore, not merely academic. The process towards this new form of democracy is well under way in Libya.

Nor can it be taken out of the context of the Government's development programme, which has brought a welfare state providing housing, hospitals and clinics, schools and universities--most of which did not exist before the September Revolution. The very same principles outlined in "The Green Book" have also meant that just as power is shared with the people, so is the wealth of the nation.

Such developments in Libya are obviously feared in other countries, where corruption and dictatorship contrast with the Libyan concept of democracy. Equally, the very same principles, when translated to advocacy of non-alignment and a new world economic order, are firmly opposed by the old colonial powers in the West.

Libya's concept of justice for the Third World brought the campaign through OPEC for fairer prices--a campaign which was successful. For the industrialised world Libya has set a dangerous precedent which they fear other developing nations may take in respect to commodity prices.

Equally Libya's commitment to justice means support for legitimate liberation struggles, whether in Southern Africa or Palestine. This is not the same as support for terrorism, which in terms of the killing of innocents, is rejected. It should not be forgotten that in recent weeks Libya has played an important role in mediating a peace settlement in the Philippines and securing the release of Mme Claustre from imprisonment by the Chad Liberation Movement.

All of these points provide the context in which "The Green Book" has been written by Col. Gaddafi. It is not a mere academic or intellectual theory--it is part of Libya's living revolution.

CSO: 4820

LIBYA

POPULAR SUPPORT FOR GREEN BOOK

Valletta THE JAMAHIRIYA MAIL in English 22 Apr 78 pp 1-2

[Text] The city of Tripoli has witnessed a huge rally. Jamahiriya and Arab reserhens marched through the streets to the People's Palace shouting "Long live the leader of the great September Revolution, Col Muammar Gathafi."

The marchers erected banners carrying slogans like: "Partners but not agents," "No capitalism," "Colonel, the second chapter is a good solution" (referring to the second chapter of "The Green Book").

The marchers affirmed their constructive contribution to the process of building the Jamahiriya and defending the great revolution's achievements. The marching masses also denounced the reactionary agents in the Arab world, and praised Col Gathafi's courageous and heroic stand towards the Arab cause and the liberation issues in the world reiterating their adherence to the great revolution and pledging to be the protective armour of that beloved part of the Arab nation.

The masses taking part in the march issued the following statement:

"The revolutionary powers in Tripoli and the surrounding areas are now massing together in a huge march to the Secretariat of the General People's Congress on the occasion of the celebrations for the evacuation, in honour of the historical Sallouk speech and the glorious uprising of the 7th of April which has transformed the greatest scientific institution in our country into a revolutionary society.

"The spirit of the Al-Fateh revolution emanates from this revolutionary society after the uprising put an end to the reactionary right and crushed all the bats conniving in the dark for whom freedom has no meaning and who do not wish to be free.

"In this march the revolutionary powers declare that they are committed to the sovereignty of the people and the concept that sovereignty, wealth,

and arms are in the hands of the people. This concept cannot be achieved unless the second part of 'The Green Book' is implemented. All classes of the people who benefit genuinely under the Al-Fateh September revolution have in their basic people's congresses endorsed the two draft laws on real estate and national service. The people reaffirm today with all their resolution that socialism will save them from all kinds of economic exploitation.

"The people adhere to the second part of 'The Green Book' and are strongly determined to put it into practice since they realize that it offers the right and the final solution to the economic problems faced by nations both in the Western and Eastern countries of the world. They also find in the second part of 'The Green Book' happiness, security and welfare for all the deprived and oppressed strata of society. In this great gathering, we affirm our adherence to the Al-Fateh September revolution, and its leader who devised it and who created its concept, Col Muammar Gathafi, the guardian of Arab nationalism.

"We give our solemn oath to God that this great blessing is part of us and is our life, hence our duty is to defend it with our blood and counter any attempt against it whether at home or abroad.

"Let those who are sick at heart and who hide behind religion know that freedom, socialism, equality, and social justice are promoted by the true Islamic faith which stresses these concepts in many of the verses of the Holy Koran and prohibits exploitation, bondage and oppression.

"Those superficial people who have gone astray, have nothing to do with religion which washes its hands of them. God is referring to them when he says in the Holy Koran in the name of Allah, the merciful. Maybe they allege there are partners to Allah who have legislated a religion different from that allowed by him. Had it not been for the final word of judgement, he would have passed judgement on them and unbelievers will receive painful torture. 'The Holy words of Allah are true.'

"Finally the revolutionary power gathered together in this place declares that it will mercilessly and harshly crush all evil powers attempting to hinder the revolutionary march. The revolution is strong with our masses who are committed to, believe in, and are represented by their people's congresses, committees, unions, guilds, and professional syndicates.

"The masses are standing on firm ground, the ground of the land of justice which is the best ground. Let the defiled, the reactionaries and the sick in spirit know that every night is the night on which the Al-Fateh September Revolution took place and every day is that of the uprising of the 7th of April."

CSO: 4820

LIBYA

LONDON OFFICES FOR LIBYAN AIRLINES

Valletta THE JAMAHIRIYA MAIL in English 13 May 78 p 7

[Text] Last week the Libyan Arab Airlines set up plush new offices in Piccadilly, Central London. Hitherto it had shared the British Airlines offices in Victoria, but from now on business will be conducted from this new office in what many call 'airlines area'--the great majority of airlines in London operate from this spot, which is near Green Park and plumb in the centre of the metropolis.

The new office used to be a large showroom for Jaguar cars. Besides its locality, the most impressive thing about it is its decor. At the first glance the ceiling appears brown, but when lights are put on, numerous panels become gold, which together with the whites of the sides, give the airline's colour of brown, gold and white.

Mr A. O. Luati, the General Manager of the airline in London, explained LAA's success story since it began operations to that country in October 1965.

"Then," he said, "we operated two flights a week with little Caravelles. Since June 1976, flights have been increased from two a week to nine, including three times a week from Benghazi via Rome and two new flights direct from Tripoli. We would like more flights immediately, because we usually fly at between 84 and 85 percent full, and during the peak period we are invariably at 100 percent."

The General Manager explained that in 1969 the airline was carrying around 160 passengers every week on the route; since 1976 this has increased to 1,300 per week. He added that in the last two years alone passengers carried had increased by more than 300 percent. Cargo carried was also increasing substantially.

Libyan Arab Airlines offers its passengers splendid service on the route. Besides having its own staff at Heathrow, led by Station Manager Mr Mehdawi and with numerous staff speaking two or three languages, LAA has

also kept its old arrangements with Air France, its handling agents, and British Airways, its general sales agents.

Mr Luati said that his company was very satisfied with the service being given by its two agents.

LAA in London is fully computerised. Besides normal airline work, it also handles the 250 LAA trainees currently polishing their trade in England. They include pilots, flight engineers, telecoms officers, accountants, computer personnel and other technical staff.--C.B.

CSO: 4820

LIBYA

NEW CULTURAL CENTER IN GAMBIA

Valletta THE JAMAHIRIYA MAIL in English 13 May 78 p 5

[Text] The President of the Gambia, Dawda Jawara has opened the Libyan Arab Cultural Centre in Banjul. A big reception was given for the Gambian Vice-President Aliou Badaro Njie, Dr. Ali Abdussalam Treiki, the Foreign Secretary, Gambian members of parliament, and the diplomatic corps in Gambia.

In the opening speech, Dr. Treiki welcomed the Gambian President and thanked him on behalf of the Jamahiriya in strengthening relations between the two countries.

He described the friendly relations between the people of Libya and the Gambia as ideal and said that they stemmed from Islamic bonds.

He added that this cultural centre would play a role in strengthening cultural, social and Islamic relations between the two brotherly peoples.

Dr. Treiki stated the Jamahiriya stood by the people of the Gambia and considered itself an ally to President Jawara, the government and the people of Gambia.

On his part, President Jawara made a speech in which he expressed his pleasure at opening the centre which, he said, would help the two countries propagate Islamic culture.

He added that the people of the Gambia would be always grateful for the assistance offered to them by the people of the Jamahiriya by opening the centre which would play a role in strengthening relations between the two countries and would give the Gambian people an opportunity to know about the Libyan Arab people's achievements.

CSO: 4820

BRIEFS

TIES WITH NIGER IMPROVE--The delegation headed by the Secretary of Youth, Muftah Kauba has ended its visit to Niger after having conveyed the congratulations of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the President Kountche--head of the military council, on the occasion of the April 15th and the youth celebrations. President Kountche commented the development of relations between Niger and the Jamahiriya. When receiving the Jamahiriya delegation, he said that the participation of the Jamahiriya in the celebrations of the people of Niger was a reaffirmation of the development in brotherly relations between the two countries. He conveyed his sincere greetings to Col. Muammar Gathafi and the Libyan Arab people and his appreciation for their taking part in the celebrations. [Text] (Valletta THE JAMAHIRIYA MAIL in English 29 Apr 78 p 3)

GREEK POLITICIAN PRAISES LIBYA--The leader of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) Mr Papandreu has praised the stands of the Great Al-Fateh revolution towards the third world countries and her active participation in the Progressive Socialist Organisation of Mediterranean Countries (PSOMC). The leader of PASOK held a press conference in Athens which was attended by the Permanent Secretariat of PSOMC. He referred to the stands of the Libyan Arab people and Colonel Gathafi, Secretary-General of the General People's Congress, and said: "These noble stands are deliberately distorted by the imperialist circles." The Press conference also dealt with the means of developing PSOMC and its struggle against imperialism. [Text] (Valletta THE JAMAHIRIYA MAIL in English 20 May 78 p 5)

TREIKI MEETS MORO CHAIRMAN--Dr Ali Abdul Salaam Treiki, Foreign Secretary and the Chairman of the current session of the Foreign Ministers Council for the Islamic Countries, has received Mr Nour Meswari, Chairman of the Moro Liberation Front, who recently visited the Jamahiriya. The meeting which was attended by the head of the Department of Asian Affairs at the Foreign Secretariat covered the recent developments in the South Philippines, the persecution to which the Moslems there were subjected and the ways of putting in to practice the Tripoli agreement

regarding the concession of self-rule to people in the South Philippines.
(JANA) [Text] [Valletta THE JAMAHIRIYA MAIL in English 22 Apr 78 p 2]

CHILEANS PRAISE LIBYAN SUPPORT--In a statement issued at the end of the Conference of Solidarity with the People of Chile held recently the progressive forces of the people of Chile praised the role being played by the Jamahiriya in support of the revolutionary liberation movements all over the world. The statement confirmed the support of progressive peoples and the revolutionary forces all over the world for the struggle of the people of Chile against the dictatorial fascist regime in Chile. The progressive forces also expressed their deep appreciation for the positive attitudes being adopted by the people of the Jamahiriya, under the leadership of the Secretary-General of the General People's Congress, Col Gathafi who firmly supported the people of Chile in their struggle against state terror and fascism. The conferees also praised the spectacular achievements being accomplished by the great Fateh revolution in all fields, in its bid to overcome backwardness, achieve progress, safeguard the freedom and dignity of mankind and to herald the dawn of the masses. (JANA) [Text] [Valletta THE JAMAHIRIYA MAIL in English 13 May 78 p 5]

BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH BENIN--The training course organised by the National Institute for Public Administration, for 85 public administration officials from the People's Republic of Benin has ended in Tripoli. A large celebration was held on the occasion which was attended by Mr Mohammed Al Taher Al Mahjoub the Secretary of Labour and Civil Service in the Jamahiriya and the Minister of Labour in the People's Republic of Benin. The Minister of Labour made a speech in which he said, "We regard the revolution in Benin as an extension of the Al Fateh revolution because it was also staged in September 1972 and we regard the great Al Fateh revolution as a revolution of the people of Benin and all the freedom loving people of the world." The head of the Benin Public Administrators delegation also made a speech. He said, "We have benefitted from the democratic experience which the Libyan Arab people, who believe in their revolution and their nation, are passing through." Mr Al Mahjoub also had a separate meeting with the Labour Minister of Benin in which they discussed the bilateral relations between the Jamahiriya and the People's Republic of Benin, especially in the technical field. [Text] [Valletta THE JAMAHIRIYA MAIL in English 22 Apr 78 p 3]

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION REPORTED--In 1977, 5,087 housing units have been built, an official source in the General Housing Establishment in Tripoli said to JANA. The units are distributed as follows: Benghazi (151); Cherian (372); Zavia (1,229); Khoms (25); Musrata (38); Jabal (490); Darana (517); The Gulf (875). The total amount of the contract for the units were L.D.61,998,168. An official of the General Corporation of Housing has announced that contracts were signed to build 5,368

housing units at a cost of nearly 73 million dinars. These houses were allocated for rural housing in the following agricultural regions: Tripoli, Gharian, Al Zawia, Al Khomis, Musrata, Al Jabel Al Akhdar, Derna Sebha and Al Khalieej.--(JANA). [Text] [Valletta THE JAMAHIRIYA MAIL in English 22 Apr 78 p 6]

LAND RECLAMATION PROJECTS BEGIN--Abdul Majid Al Qaud, the Secretary of Land Reform, has signed two contracts worth L.D. 43,560,000 with one of the international companies which specialises in land reform. Under the two contracts, 135,060 hectares will be reclaimed, 22,209,000 trees will be planted, and 298 stock farms and two nurseries will be built up. The project will be carried out in the areas of Almaraweh, Wadi Alraml Al Wadi Alheirah, Be'ir Tarfas, Almajinin, Alrwiss, Badr, Taktok and Bardat Al Athlah. Sources from the Secretariat of Land Reform said that the project came as a result of intensive research and study and that by completing this project the programme of Sahl Al Jafareh would be realized.--(JANA). [Text] [Valletta THE JAMAHIRIYA MAIL in English 22 Apr 78 p 6]

BRIDGES FOR TRIPOLI, BENGHAZI--The Jamahiriya Secretary of Municipalities, Abu Zeid Omar Dourda, has told JANA that plans and specifications were being prepared for the construction of seven huge new bridges, four of which are to be built in Tripoli and three in Benghazi. A sum of L.D. 30m. has been allocated to this project from the transformation plan. The construction of these bridges will solve the traffic problems and remove congestion in entrances to the cities of Tripoli and Benghazi.--(JANA). [Text] [Valletta THE JAMAHIRIYA MAIL in English 22 Apr 78 p 6]

CSO: 4820

ANNUAL ECONOMIC GROWTH JUMPS TO 7.5 PERCENT

Khartoum AL-AYYAM in Arabic 16 Mar 78 p 1

[Article: "From President's Report On 6-Year Plan: 7.5 Percent Annual Growth Average Resulting From Massive Investments Totalling 2.67 million Pounds in Plan. Opening-Up Policy Resulted in Opening of Foreign Bank Branches and Increasing Activity of Arab and International Companies"]

[Text] In his report to the Central Committee, the president yesterday mentioned that the 6-Year Plan aims at realizing an economic growth average of about 7.5 percent as a result of aggregate investments under the plan totalling 2.67 billion Sudanese pounds, of which 1.57 billion were contributed by the public sector and 1.1 billion by the cooperative, mixed and private sector. The president added that 48 percent of the investments of the plan came from the country's domestic resources and 52 percent from foreign sources.

The first year of the 6-Year Plan -- for the public sector projects of which 307 million pounds were used -- was characterized by top priority being given to the uncompleted projects of the amended 5-Year Plan, along with priority given to centralization projects aimed at using the best labor resources available to ensure the best production possible. The opening-up policy, the president asserted in his report, has contributed to the opening of foreign bank branches in the country -- National Bank of Abu Dhabi and World Trade Credit Bank, which have well known financial assets -- in addition to the creation of Bank Faysal al-Islami in Khartoum. It has also contributed to the approval of the establishment of Citibank branches and offices of the Chase Manhattan Bank and the Arab-African Bank.

The opening-up policy, the president added, has contributed to improving the activity of Arab, regional and international companies, and to attract more capital for investment in the Sudan. It has also contributed to the creation of new companies which basically deal in investments in the Sudan, such as the Arab Investment and Agricultural Development Agency, whose capital assets amount to about 500 million dollars, and which represents an Arab enterprise and an example for the unification of the resources of the Arab nation on the land of the Sudan.

SUDAN

FERROCHROME PRODUCTION PLANNED FOR 1980

Khartoum AL-AYYAM in Arabic 27 Mar 78 p 6

Report by 'Abd-al-Hafiz Ba-Bakr: "Ferrochrome -- Plan to Manufacture Ferrochrome Locally in Future"

Text The Jibal al-Anqisna Mines Company, nationalized in 1970, covers a gypsum mining area in the Red Sea mountains and another area in the al-Anqisna mountains, which produces ferrochrome -- crude chromium used in the steel industry. Here is a statement made by Mr Ahmad Hamid 'Anani, administrative and marketing manager of the Jibal al-Anqisna Company, regarding the part played by this institution in the mining field.

This company currently extracts ferrochrome -- crude chromium -- in the Jibal al-Anqisna area. The yearly output currently amounts to about 20,000 tons.

Under the plan established for the 1978-1979 fiscal year, we hope that the output will increase up to 25,000 tons. Ferrochrome will be exported to international markets, and the corresponding proceeds will amount to about \$1 million when the production is transferred from al-Damazin station to Port Sudan. There are plans to process chromium locally under a basic agreement between the Sudan and two Japanese companies. When this is realized, the price per ton will be ten times the cost of the crude ore. There is also a gypsum project in the Red Sea area, which currently produces about 16,000 tons a year, enough to cover the needs of the cement plants in 'Atbarah and Rik.

Ferrochrome Industry

Question: What are the future plans of the company in the mining field?

Answer: One of the company's future plans is to increase production to about 100,000 tons a year, when the industrial ferrochrome production is set up.

Difficulties

Question: What difficulties does the company have to face in the mining field?

Answer: One of the difficulties which we have to face is the strenuous transportation of the ore from al-Damazin station to Port Sudan. When this obstacle is overcome, there will be no more difficulties.

Improvement of al-Anqisna Area

Question: What part does the Jibal al-Anqisna Mines Company play in the improvement of the area, which is full of various resources apt to be developed?

Answer: The company has developed this area both socially and culturally. The company has built a school to eradicate illiteracy, as well as a medical clinic provided with the usual equipment and all the required rugs, which is under full medical supervision. This clinic specifically takes care of the company workers, as well as of the people living in the area, generally speaking. There is also a cultural club providing all sorts of entertainment such as games and television and a cooperative.

Technical Consolidation

Question: What methods have been adopted to strengthen the company technically?

Answer: With reference to technical consolidation, the company has secured the services of an Egyptian engineer, while two Sudanese nationals were sent to be trained abroad, in order to remedy the shortage of technical help. There is also a training plan -- for training both here and abroad -- to help the corresponding trainees advance in all managerial, technical and financial fields. The company also has various manganese and magnesite mining concessions which have not been used to date. There is also an American-Sudanese company which currently mines asbestos in the Jibal al-Anqisna area, and the government holds 51 percent of this company's stock.

2693

CSO: 4802

SUDAN

BRIEFS

ROAD CONSTRUCTION PLANS--In his speech before the People's Assembly, the president yesterday mentioned that the second year of the sexennial plan shall witness the construction of the Jabal al-Awliya'--Rabak road, the Nyala--Kas--Zalingei road and the Wad Madani--Sannar-Sinjah--al-Damazin road, as well as the completion of the Port of Sudan--Khartoum and Madani--Sannar--Kusti roads. [Text] [Khartoum AL-AYYAM in Arabic 14 Mar 78 p 17]
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